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OFFICIAL LETTER BOOKS

OF

W. C. C. CLAIBORNE

1801-1816

EDITED BY

DUNBAR ROWLAND, B. S., LL. B., LL. D.

Director Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Secretary Mississippi Historical Society, Member American Historical Association

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LETTER BOOKS OF W. C. C. CLAIBORNE

1804–1806.

Copy

To Col. Butler

New Orleans November 8th 1804

Sir,

A spirit of Insurrection among the Negroes at Point Coupee has occasioned considerable alarm in that District, and the Citizens have asked a supply of arms for the use of the Militia, and a small regular force to serve as a rallying point in case of danger. I am myself impressed with an opinion, that the prompt marching of a small Detachment of Troops to Point Coupeé may avert mischief and give Security to private Property.

I therefore think it my duty to Solicit you to Detach a subaltern and twenty five or thirty men to Point Coupeé with all possible expedition, and that the officer commanding the Detachment should be furnished with an hundred stand of Public Arms to distribute to the Militia in case the danger on his arrival should be imminent.

I am Sir with great Respect & Esteem

your Hbl. St.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

Colon. Butler

(Copy)

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans November 8th 1804

Sir,

I have this moment been informed that the news of "Protection being offered at Nacogdoches to Slaves

escaping from the Service of their Masters'' was in circulation among the Negroes at Point Coupee, and had produced a general Spirit of insubordination. I communicate to your Excellency this further information in order to justify my Solicitude for your prompt and effectual interference.—I fear Sir, that nothing but the immediate arrest and return of the Negroes who have escaped to Nacogdoches will prevent much injury to the Territory, and perhaps the destruction of many of her Citizens.

The Letters received from your Excellency on yesterday, are now in the hands of my Interpreter:—

—Translations will be furnished me in the course of this day, and if answers are required, they shall be returned on tomorrow.

I offer to your Excellency
assurances of my respect
and Esteem

His Excellency
The Marquis of
Casa Calvo

Signed./ Wm. C. C. Claiborne

(Copy)

To Edw. Turner

New Orleans November 8th 1804

Sir,

In Consequence of the representations to me from the Inhabitants of your District, and my sincere desire to give all possible protection and Security to my Fellow Citizens, I shall take measures to Detach to Point Coupeé a Subaltern Officer and twenty five or thirty Men; the Officer will also be furnished with one hundred Muskets to distribute to the Militia, in the event that any danger should exist on his arrival.

There is no doubt with me, but the reports from Nacogdoches have occasioned the late unpleasant movements among the Negroes at Point Coupeé, and while I

flatter myself that the mischief is averted by a timely discovery, I nevertheless advise and direct you to observe on your part the utmost vigilance, and to give orders as usual for strong patroles at night.

You will cause the Militia of your District to be immediately organized.— Every Male free person between the ages of sixteen and fifty will be considered as Subject to Militia Service, and I look with confidence to my Fellow Citizens for a faithful discharge of duty.

Captain Siblong will take Rank in the Militia of your District as Captain, and I desire you will testify my wishes to him, and urge his immediate attention to the Service.

If any thing interesting should arise, you will be pleased to communicate the same to me by express.

I am Sir very Respectfully

Your most obdt. svt.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Commandant
at
Nachitoches.

To James Madison

New Orleans 10th November 1804

Sir,

I now forward you the *answers* of the Marquis of Casa Calvo, to my communications of the 30th and 31st Ultimo, together with a Copy of my reply to *them.*

I fear the Royal Decree alluded to is calculated to do injury— If the Marquis should send me a Copy it shall be forwarded to you. I never was an Advocate for a Standing Army; I wish to God it could be dispensed with in this Territory;— But the present state of things will not justify a reduction. Our Troops here are few in number,—greatly reduced by sickness, and by the differ-

ent Detachments which are necessarily made to the Frontier Posts.—If it be possible I pray that a Reinforcement may immediately come on. The Civil Authorities are not sufficiently organized to preserve of themselves good order, and the appearance of a superior Spanish force in our Vicinity is calculated to lessen greatly the confidence of the people in the power of the United States.

I am Sir very Respectfully
your most obdt. Hb. St.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Secretary
of State

——— „ ——— „ ———

—Copy—

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans November 9th 1804

Sir,

The answers of your Excellency to my communications of the 30th and 31st Ultimo I have had the pleasure to receive. I persuade myself that the Letters you have addressed to the Commanding General of the Inland Provinces, and the Commandant at Nacogdoches, will impress upon those officers the propriety of adopting on their part, that line of conduct which is calculated to strengthen, rather than weaken the ties of friendship between our two Nations.

It is not impossible but the French Inhabitants may have manifested a want of caution in communicating the Intelligence from Nacogdoches; but I am inclined to think that the Commandants at that Post has also been excessively imprudent, unless indeed his conduct was prescribed by his Superiors, & this from your Letters I have no reason to suppose.

The property of the Citizens of Nachitoches under whatever Government acquired, must now be secured to

them by the United States: the complaints of the citizens have therefore very properly been directed to me, and others I flatter myself that your representations to his Catholic Majesty will induce that Sovereign to apply a just and prompt corrective, I nevertheless think it my duty to lay the whole affair before the President of the United States: and if your Excellency is in possession of the Royal Decree which has occasioned the unpleasant occurrences at Nachitoches I shall esteem it a favour to be furnished with a copy.

The return of the Negroes who have sought refuge in his Catholic Majesty's Dominions, upon the conditions you have proposed I cannot approve of, inasmuch as I am firmly convinced their unconditional Surrender can alone put an end to the growing evil of which the Citizens complain.

I wish it however to be understood that I am not an advocate for the punishment of those fugitives: But I am desirous that their lenient treatment should depend upon the clemency of their Masters, of the humane interposition of the Territorial Government.

I renew to your Excellency assurances of my high and respectful consideration!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency ——— „ ——— „ ———
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New Orleans Nov. 17th, 1804.

Sir,

I enclose you two other original Letters from the Marquis of Casa Calvo to me, relating to the late News from Nachitoches and Point Coupie.—

A small Detachment of Troops has been ordered to Point Coupie, & I believe everything is now tranquil at that place.— I have received no late Dispatches from

Nachitoches; but I persuade myself that there also, the cause for alarm has in a measure ceased. If my Communications have reached Washington regularly, you are furnished with copies of the various Letters which I have addressed to the Marquis upon the subject of the Royal Decree concerning concerning Slaves.— It is a length of time since I have been honored with a Letter from you. My Impressions are, that the Post from Washington to this City is not at this time a safe Conveyance for official Dispatches, and I advise that Duplicates of *such* as are of Importance, be forwarded by Water.—

I am Sir,

With respect & esteem

Yo: hbl. Sevt.

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State
Washington.

——— ,. ———

To James Madison

New Orleans November 18th, 1804

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you several Documents relative to the Barque Hero, from No, 1 to No, 6 inclusive as also a Copy of two Letters from me to Captain Nacalls, marked No, 7 & No, 8.—

Some of the Prisoners who have made their escape from the Hero, and came up to this City, have already proved themselves unworthy members of Society, and I am therefore sworn defense to prevent the Men seen on board of that Vessel from Landing I must confess Sir, I did not know, what were the most prudent measures to direct in relation to the Hero, and her passengers and Crew; But under existing circumstances circumstances, I thought it best, that the vessel & those on

board should depart;—I suggested some Port in the United States, as proper for their destination, under an Impression that it would prove as an Inducement to their Departure, and that nowhere in the United States would the Residence of those Strangers be as dangerous as in New Orleans.—

The arrest of a Spanish officer in this City, by a Writ issuing from the office of the Superior Court, has occasioned much agitation here, and greatly excited the displeasure of the Marquis of Caso Calvo, and of Governor Falch;— I will give you the particulars in my next Letter, and in the mean time I pray you to be assured, that the conduct of the constituted authorities has been correct.— I have not yet been enabled to form a Council— only five of the Gentlemen nominated by the President have accepted—to wit;— Messrs. Poidras, Watkins, Morgan, Wikopp and Kenner;— the first four are now in the City, and the fifth is every Day expected.— I hope in God, that the next Mail will furnish me with the names of four Gentlemen, as successors to those who may decline. A Council is greatly wanted and the Interest of the Territory suffers much by the delay of Legislative Interference.— Party spirit here is certainly subsiding, and I am persuaded that the Inhabitants of the Country are becoming much better disposed to the U. States; —But in this City there are many disorderly and dangerous Characters.— Neither the Secretary (Mr. Brown) or Colo: Kirbey, has yet arrived; the latter Gentlemen is reported to be dangerously ill at Fort Stoddart.

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully
Yo: Mo: obt. servt.

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secy of State.

——— „ ——— „ ———

To Capt. Nicholl

New Orleans, November 16th, 1804

Sir,

Your late Letter relative to the Hero together with its several enclosures I have received. The situation of the Sick and wounded on Board of that vessel excites my commisseration, and I am certainly desirous to render them acts of kindness.

Will you request the Surgeon's Mate of your Garrison to visit the Hero, and administer such relief to the Sick and wounded as may lie in his power. He will be pleased to make his charge, and I will endeavor to obtain a payment for him from the Ministers of those Nations near the United States, whose distressed Countrymen have been unfortunately thrown upon our shores.

If the Doctor should suppose that exercise on shore would assist the convalescents you may permit them occasionally to land for that purpose, and I desire that every act of kindness may be extended to them. If the person having charge of the vessel has the means of procuring fresh provisions and rice for the sick and wounded, you will be pleased to permit him to obtain the necessary supplies; but if he is without means (that is, if he has no money) I will thank you to procure two Dozen of fowls, and two Barrels of Rice, and present them to the sick. For the expenses of the Rice and fowls you will draw upon me and your Bills shall be immediately paid.

As soon as those supplies are furnished and the sick and wounded have received the necessary aid from the Physician of the Garrison, I would advise that the Barque Hero should put to Sea, and proceed to some of the Atlantic Ports in the United States or to the West Indies.

But their departure need not for the present be pressed. Those on Board in whose Honour you can

confide you may at your pleasure permit to land for exercise.

I am Sir respectfully
your Hble St
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Captain Nicoll
Commanding at
Plaquimine

Copy

To Capt. Nicholl

Nu Orleans Novr 17th, 1804

Sir,

If you should find the Persons on board of the Hero, destitute of the means of procuring fresh Provisions, you will oblige me, if in addition to the Rice mentioned and in my last Letter, you would purchase four or five dozen of Fowl, and present them to the sick, and if you think proper you may also procure a small quantity of fresh Beef for *their* use.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Yo: Hble Servt
William C. C. Claiborne

Captain Nicoll
Commanding
at Plaquimine

To James Madison

New Orleans November 23rd 1804

Dear Sir,

Within a few days past events have occurred here which I conceive it my duty particularly to represent to you. I have heretofore informed you of the Arrival in this City of Governor Folch and several other Spanish officers on their return from Baton Rouge to Pensa-

cola, and that their passage by this route was with my consent.

Governor Folch and suite have now departed, but during their stay a Fleet of small vessels with near *three Hundred Troops* on Board, lay in the Lake about Six Miles from the Bayou St. John. A supply of Provisions for those Troops was purchased in this Territory with my approbation, nor did I oppose a wish which was expressed by the Spanish officers generally to visit New Orleans. In this state of things, all remained quiet for several days, and frequent acts of civility were exchanged between the officers of the United States and those of Spain. On the 13th Instant an American of the name of Morgan who had been taken a prisoner by Governor Folch in West Florida (but with what offence charged I know not) made his escape from the Fleet; he was pursued and overtaken near Fort St. John. But upon declaring himself to be a citizen of the United States, and claiming protection, a non-commissioned officer commanding the Fort, would not permit his pursuers to take him; and he, Morgan came up to this City. This event did not seem to excite the displeasure of Governor Folch, and not a word was said upon the subject.

Between the 12th and 14th instant several Frenchmen who had made their escape from the Barque Hero (whose case I have acquainted you of) reached the City, and it was reported that they had been enlisted in the Army of Spain by Governor Folch. Being in the vicinity of the lodgings of the Marquis of Casa Calvo, when this information was received by me, I immediately determined to pay him a visit and to mention the subject verbally.

The object of my visit was promptly communicated and I expressed my regret that so direct an insult to the Sovereignty of my Country should have been offered. The Marquis assured me, that the report was not correct, he observed "that four or five individuals had offered

"their services to Governor Folch, but were told they "were now on American ground and that he the Gov- "ernor could not recruit them; if however they thought "proper to visit Pensacola, and would there tender their "services it was probable they might be enlisted."

The Marquis added that the subject would be mentioned by him particularly to Governor Folch, and assured me no indignity or disrespect should be offered to this Government.

On the 16th instant Morgan (the person mentioned as effecting his escape near Fort St. John) sued out a writ from the office of the Superior Court, against Manuel Garcia, a Spanish officer, and the particulars attending its execution you will find fully detailed in a Letter to me from the Alguayil Mayor herewith enclosed marked No. 1.—

I was early advised by a message from Governor Folch of the arrest of Captain Garcia, and his release was required in terms not very delicate. The impropriety nay improbability of an official interference on my part was communicated (in terms the most conciliatory) to Governor Folch; but he was irritated and indulged himself in Language intemperate and highly exceptionable.

Shortly afterwards I received a Letter from the Marquis, the original of which No. 2 is enclosed, and I returned an answer of which the enclosed No. 3 is a copy.

When the Marquis's Letter was handed me I was informed by the Bearer of it "that the Marquis requested "an immediate answer, and the release of Captain Gar- "cia, or he would immediately leave the Territory and "would not be answerable for the *consequences* and *Rev- "olution* that might ensue."

The Gentleman delivering this message expressed himself in English, and I desired him "to inform the "Marquis that the letter would be answered when con- "venient; and if he wished to withdraw from the Terri-

"tory, the customary passports should on application "be furnished him." In the course of the evening I was informed that a Mob of more than 200 Men had assembled in Front of the Marquis's House, and evinced a disposition for mischief; I immediately requested Colonel Butler to strengthen the Guard; and directed the Alguazil Mayor to proceed to the place of this assemblage and solicit (in my name) the people to repair to their respective Homes. But previous to the arrival of the Alguazil many had retired, and the few which were then remaining immediately seperated at his request. Several Letters have since passed between the Marquis and myself upon this subject, copies of which are enclosed Nos.

I was on a visit to Judge Prevosts' when I heard the particulars of the Spanish Officer's arrest, and there continued until the verbal messages between the Marquis, Governor Folch and myself had ceased. On my return to the Government House, I found that many Americans had repaired there, under an impression that a serious riot would ensue. But throughout the night the most perfect tranquility reigned and I take pleasure in adding that on this occasion the *great body* of the Citizens manifested no disposition unfriendly to good order, or to the existing Government.

I am Sir with great Respect
and esteem, your Hbl St.—

The Honble
James Madison

William C. C. Claiborne

——— „ ——— „ ———

To Casa Calvo

New-Orleans
November 18 1804

Sir!

I am honor'd with the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of yesterday, and after a respectful Attention to it's contents, I hasten to reply.—

Your Letter commences with adverting to the Commission intrusted to you, by his Catholic Majesty: and afterwards you seem, more than once to allude to some of the Privileges, which you conceive yourself entitled to, in virtue of that Commission.—

In answer, your Excellency I trust, will excuse my remarking, that whatever Diplomatic Agency, it may have been the Intention of your Souvereign to invest you with that it is only through the Government that I serve, that I can be appris'd of it.—

To the President of the United States, is constitutionally reserved the exclusive right of accrediting the Ambassadors, Ministers or Agents of foreign Powers: and therefore, *although* as a Gentleman of Distinction and Information,— and high in the confidence of your Government I have, with great pleasure, corresponded with you, on local subjects, and the mutual Interests of this Territory, and the Dominions of his Catholic Majesty in our Vicinity, it never was my Intention, nor is it in my Power, to recognize your Excellency, in any manner, as a Diplomatic Character or entitled to any privilege beyond those, of a highly respected Personage, temporarily residing in this Territory.—

To your corresponding with me, on the Subject of the Arrest of Captain Don Manuel Garçia, I cou'd not possibly have objections:— but as this was, altogether a judicial Affair, and, (as I have already explain'd to your Excellency,) utterly beyond my Controul, I indulg'd a hope, that my explanations on that head wou'd have been satisfactory.—

The Judges, Sir, of the Territory, are not nam'd by, nor liable to be remov'd by me:— to their Tribunals, I can give no Orders: and in their Counsels, even my advice, wou'd be unwarrantable;— because,— *an unconstitutional interference.*— willing, however, to co-operate

with your Excellency, in any measure, that may conduce to a reconciliation of our difference, I will communicate to the Attorney General, (the only officer, through which the Executive can approach the Court) the reasons assigned by your Excellency, to shew the illegality of Captain Garcia's arrest, and will request the Attorney, to adopt such means as may be in his power, to effect a speedy examination and decision of the question.—

You ask Sir, the reasons, why Captain Garcia, was arrested by an arm'd force?— To that I have only to answer, that the *Laws* of *my Country* are supreme, and are to be obeyed respectfully, and promptly, by every Individual, of whatever nation, he may be, while within the Limits of *their Authority:*— had Captain Garcia surrendered himself in the first instance, to the civil Authority, the Aid of the Military wou'd not have been call'd in.— To save himself from the disagreeable alternative of Imprisonment, it was only necessary for him to give security for his appearance before the Court.— He was surrounded by his Friends, several of whom offer'd themselves as his bail, but he *refus'd their offers,* saying that such were *his orders;* and in the presence of the civil Officers, (I am inform'd,) he receiv'd from Governor Folch, through an officer, a further order in positive and energetic terms, not to give bail, nor leave the House he was then in, unless compell'd by a superior force, and to resist any Attempts to remove him.— The civil Authority thus oppos'd, cou'd not do otherwise than demand the Assistance of the Military.— several of Captain Garcia's friends, Officers of the Spanish Army, were arm'd; and, on the entrance of the Guard, swords were actually drawn: but, happily, the threaten'd resistance, was not attempted!—

In your Excellency's Conduct, and that of your friends, in behalf of Don Pedro Vilamil, when arrested at the Suit of Hulin, I must confess myself unable to

discover those proofs of Moderation which you seem to rely on: Don Pedro Vilamil was, (as Captain Garcia now is) in the Custody of the Law, and, in giving security for his appearance before the Tribunal by whose order he was arrested he did only what the Law made necessary to his Enlargement;— Nor can I understand, how the Affair of Mr. Randall, to which you allude, or the Punishment of your Servant is connected with the subject immediately before us, unless, as Violations of some suppos'd Diplomatic privilege on the subject of which, I have already explain'd myself to your Excellency.—

I have complain'd of no injury to my Character or person, in the *writings or Letters,* of your Excellency or of Governor Folch; by adverting to my last letter, you will find, that the offensive Language was convey'd in *verbal,* communications.— On this subject, my Impressions must remain the same, unless your Excellency will disavow the following Expressions, us'd by a Gentleman, who in Company with your Secretary Don Andre Lopez said to me that "The Marquis requested an im-"mediate answer to his letter, and the Release of Cap-"tain Garcia, or, he wou'd immediately depart the Coun-"try, and wou'd not be answerable for the consequences, "and Revolution that might ensue."—

The Language of Governor Folch, to which I alluded, was, his complaining of "Injury" and threatening "Retaliation"; and adding that "the People of this Coun-"try wou'd not see him injur'd."— These expressions were address'd to a Gentleman, who bore a verbal message from me to Governor Folch, explaining to him, in terms the most conciliatory and candid that the Arrest of the Spanish Officer, was, by Virtue of the Judicial Authority, and that the *Court,* wou'd certainly, direct his release, (provided the arrest was illegal) whenever the case was brought before it.— but I am unwilling to enlarge on this subject having too much confidence in the

good sense of your Excellency,—and of Governor Folch, to apprehend, that either, on dispassionate Reflection, will be dispos'd to persist in, or to justify expressions, of that unpleasant Nature.—

I wish your Excellency, a long and a happy Life, and beg leave to renew to you, Assurances of my respectful Consideration.

William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo.

Copy

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans November 22nd 1804

Sir,

I have the Honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 19th instant; and I learn with pleasure, that you are at length convinced that the affair of Captain Garcia is placed on the only footing which the existing Laws of this Country can admit of.

How far my permission for Governor Folch and suite to pass by this route to Pensacola, entitles Captain Garcia to exemption from arrest, is matter for the consideration of the Court, and on this question there is no doubt but the decision will be a proper one. The sentiments contained in my last communication to your Excellency concerning your claims to certain privileges, as the agent of a foreign power, were well considered before they were transmitted to you; and have not been shaken by any of the arguments of your Excellency's last Letter. The American Commissioners received this Country from Mr. Laussat: with your Excellency they neither had, nor could have had with propriety, any official intercourse on the subject. The Transfer of the Country being completed, any difficulty in ascertaining the limits of the Ceded Territory which may arise, must be the ob-

ject of a seperate Mission or Agency; and if you are commissioned in that behalf by your Government, your powers must be accredited at least by the nomination of a new American Commission to meet you on the subject, before your appointment can have any operation, or entitle you to any of the privileges which may be attached to it. For these, and the other reasons that I have already communicated, I still feel myself compelled by duty, to refuse any recognition of your Excellency as a privileged character in this Territory. Permit me however to add that this refusal is not dictated by any kind of uneasiness at your Excellency's stay in the Country, or the most distant wish of rendering your situation among us irksome to you. On the contrary, during your Excellency's residence in this Territory, I shall reciprocate with great pleasure friendly offices, and shall esteem it a duty to give you all the protection which the National Amity of our respective Countries entitle you to, and our Laws admit of.

I observe in your Excellency's last Letter but one subject, not before touched upon during the present correspondence, namely, your complaint of your unsuccessful endeavors to collect the arrears of the King's Revenue. I can recollect no interruption which your Excellency met with in this particular, except a refusal on my part to carry into execution certain judgments which your Excellency was pleased to say had been rendered against certain individuals by the Spanish Authorities. An acquaintance with the Laws of the United States Sir, would be sufficient to inform you that they will suffer no judgment to be executed but those rendered in their own Courts; that in those Courts, foreign judgments, however respectable the Tribunals which rendered them, are only evidence and require the confirmation of an American judgment before any execution can flow therefrom.

I have only therefore to add, that in all cases of this nature, as well as that of Mr. Randall, the Courts of this Territory are open to you, and are vested with the power (no longer in my hands) of redressing any grievance which you may have occasion to complain of.

I pray your Excellency to accept
assurances of my respectful
Consideration

(Signed)
William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis
of Casa Calvo

(Copy) *To Casa Calvo*

New Orleans Nov. 10th 1804

Sir,

I have read with respectful attention your letter of this Evening, and in reply I have only to state that the Spanish Officer you allude to is in arrest, in virtue of a process regularly issuing from the office of the Superior Court of this Territory.

Upon what grounds it may have been issued, or how far it may have been irregular, it is not within my province to enquire. The powers of the Judiciary are derived immediately from the General Government of the United States. The Court is independent, and not subject to my control. If the arrests of the officer be illegal, the Court will certainly direct his liberation on a proper application to that effect.

I cannot perceive in this transaction any just cause for the agitation which has been discovered on the part of your Excellency and of Governor Folch. In a verbal message to me from your Excellency, expressions were conveyed derogatory to the Government which I represent as well as personally offensive to me, and I learn

with regret that Governor Folch has used a language equally exceptionable. Your Excellency can easily conceive my feelings on receiving such communications. No threats of that nature, you may be assured, can induce me to swerve from my duty, and permit me to add, that, the power does not exist which can shake the authority of my Country over this Territory.

I pray your Excellency to be assured of my respectful consideration!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Marquis
of
Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New-Orleans December 10th 1804

Sir,

About five months ago a Spanish Officer attached to the Family of the Marquis of Casa Calvo presented me a key which he said was the key of a large Room in the Principal (or City Hall) belonging formerly to the King of Spain, which had heretofore been occupied as an Arsenal. The officer added that the Principal had been built at the joint expense of the King and City, that the former claimed the *lower* story, and the Room in which the arms had been placed; the Balance of the Building belonged to the city.

When Judge Prevost arrived he applied to me for an apartment to open his Court in, when the key above alluded to, and which had so long been in my possession was handed to the Sheriff, who was directed to cause the necessary furniture to be procured and the Room put in order. Under my ordinance defining the powers of the Municipality, the care of the City property was com-

mitted to that Body, and they were taught to believe (by the Intriguers) that the Principal in toto, was the property of the City, and that the Governor's appropriating any part thereof, without previously consulting the *Municipality* was a great contempt *to that Body.*—

The consequence was, that a Letter upon the subject was addressed to me by the Mayor of the City, which was answered with mildness and candour; the temporary agitation subsided, and without determining the question *as to the right of property,* the Municipality consented to accommodate the *Court,* as well as the Legislative Council.

I have mentioned this occurrence, in order to shew you to what miserable expedients the Intriguers here resort, in order to embarrass my administration, and to excite public discontents. But Sir the line of conduct I have prescribed for myself shall never be departed from; my acts shall be the result of reflection and my best Judgment; I will continue to observe as much moderation as the Interest of my country will permit, and *while I observe gentleness in the manner I shall nevertheless be firm to my objects.* I have heretofore had an arduous Task, and there are yet many difficulties to encounter, but I persuade myself that in a little time the state of things here, will be such as I desire.

I am Sir with great
Esteem and Respect
Your Very Hbl St.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secy of State.

——— „ ——— „ ———

To James Madison

New-orleans December 11th 1804

Sir,

The Mail of last Evening brought me your communication of the 12th ultimo. The late Insurrection at Baton Rouge (if indeed it can be called such) has subsided, and I believe will not be renewed. The Insurgents were few in number, and at no time exceeding thirty. Their place of Rendezvous, was within what is called West Florida and the Party composed almost entirely of persons who reside in that district.

I have understood that a general amnesty (with the exception of Kemper and two others) has been granted by Governor Folch to the Insurgents, and that they have returned to their respective homes. Those not included in the amnesty have retired to Pinchneyville in the Mississippi Territory. Should any further disturbances, your Letter of the 12th Ultimo will regulate my conduct.

I read with Pride and pleasure the President's Message to Congress. The prosperity of our Country is unexampled, and I pray almighty God that nothing may intervene to mar the Happy prospect before us. I had feared that the little misunderstanding which has arisen with Spain, might assume a shape not so favorable to the pacific policy, which our National Interests so strongly recommend. But the remarks of the President with respect to our foreign relations generally, have removed my fears; and I persuade myself that in a short time the Western and Eastern limits of Louisiana as contended for by the United States will be acknowledged, and East Florida acquired on Terms the most satisfactory.

The President's Message has been translated into the French Language, and I will take care to have it circulated among the People. It will serve to remove an im-

pression which has heretofore tended greatly to embarrass the local administration—to wit; that the Country West of the Mississippi would certainly be receded to Spain, and perhaps the whole of Louisiana. So general has been this impression, particularly as it relates to the Country west of the Mississippi, that many Citizens have been fearful of accepting employment under the American Government, or even manifesting a respect therefor, lest at a future day it might lessen them in the esteem of Spanish officers. This opinion as to a reception has been greatly encouraged by the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and Governor Folch, who are really so uninformed of the strength of the United States, as to suppose that the Spanish Monarch could easily acquire and maintain possession of Louisiana, and I doubt not, but they have made such representations to their Court.

I am Sir with great respect and
Esteem your very Hbl St
William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secy of State.

To James Madison

New-Orleans December 15th 1804

Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the Council progresses in Business, with great Harmony, care and industry, and that the well disposed Citizens appear satisfied. The enclosed Paper contains the address of Mr. Poidrass on the opening of the cession. His influence is considerable and there is no Doubt but his sentiments will make a favourable impression.

The Barque Hero whose situation I informed you of some time since, not being in a situation to proceed to

sea, was detained at Plaquemine for 16 or 18 days, during which time the sick and wounded on Board, as well French as English were by my order furnished with Medical assistance and a small quantity of Rice and fresh Provisions. The Captain of the Hero required a large supply *of stores* to enable him to prosecute his Voyage to Europe, and to procure the *same* I have lately permitted him to proceed with his Vessel to this Port.

I am unwilling that so many needy persons as were on Board the Hero should on a sudden be introduced into this City; it was probable they *would have proved troublesome in Society: For this* therefore as well as other reasons, I gave order for the early departure of the Vessel, and that in the mean time she should not be permitted to pass the Fort. Many of the Prisoners having subsequently made their escape, and dispersed throughout the Territory, and apprehending no inconvenience from the landing of those now on Board, I have permitted the Hero to approach the City.

An *account* of the supplies furnished the sick and wounded will in due time be forwarded to you. *It* is very inconsiderable, and I presume will readily be paid by the British Minister. I hope my conduct in this affair will be approved of: I was desirous that the Vessel should speedily depart, but she was without the necessary Sea Stores, and I did not suppose there would be propriety in my furnishing any other Supplies, than what were necessary for the comfort of the sick and wounded, during their stay at Plaquemine; and that much Humanity enjoined.

The alarm which lately existed at Natchitoches has subsided, and the Farmers of Point Coupeé at present consider themselves in a state of security. The Militia of that settlement is now completely organized, and the

small detachment of Regular Troops stationed in the District will serve as a rallying point in case of danger.

I am Sir with Sincere Esteem
Your very Hble. St.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

——— „ ——— „ ———

To James Madison

New Orleans Dec 23rd 1804

Sir,

The Bark Hero arrived in this Harbour three days ago. The French Prisoners have all escap'd, some have gone into the Country for employment; a few remain in the City and others have entered as sailors on Board of Merchant Vessels. The situation of the sick and wounded Englishmen on Board the Hero is peculiarly distressing: *they are without* Hospital Stores of any kind, Medical attendance, or any Provisions accept a little *Salt-beef or* the means of obtaining the necessary supplies.

There being no British Consul or agent in this City, and those unfortunate strangers having applied to me for succour I addressed on this day to Colonel Freeman a letter of which the enclosure No 1 is a copy, and received the answer No 2. During the detention of the Hero at Plaquemine, the sick and wounded, as well French as English were furnished by my order with fresh provisions, and the Captain of the Hero speaks favourably of the *humane attention* of Captain Nicolls the officer commanding at Plaquemine, and of Doctor

Williamson the surgeon of the Garrison, *to the sick and wounded.*

I am Sir with great Respect
Your most obdt Hble St.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble. ——— „ ——— „ ———
James Madison
Secty. of State

P. S. The amount of supplies furnished the sick and wounded at Plaquemine amounted to Forty one Dollars and which I have paid.

W. C. C. C.

To Col. Freeman

New-Orleans Dec 23rd 1804

Sir,

I understand that the situation of the sick and wounded Englishmen on Board the Bark Hero, is truly wretched, without Hospital Stores of any kind, Medical attendance, or Provisions except a little Salt Beef.

Under these circumstances Humanity suggests that those unfortunate strangers should not be permitted to remain longer in our Port without receiving the necessary succour; and I was happy to hear you direct Doctor Rogers to have them removed to the Marine Hospital.

The object of this Letter is to know, how many are to be admitted into the Hospital, and what orders you have given with a view to their comfortable accomodation. *Acts of innocent kindness* to both of the Belligerent Powers, a just neutrality enjoins, and *an act of humanity* must fall within *that description.*

I am Sir with great Respect
Your Hble. St.—
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Colo Freeman—

New-Orleans December 31st 1804

Sir,

I inclose for your perusal three Letters which I have lately received from the officer Commanding at Natchitoches together with Copies of my answers, thereto, marked No. 1 & 2.

You discover by these Letters that the late alarm at Natchitoches relative to the Negroes has wholly subsided, and also that the neighbouring Tribes of Indians, manifest the best dispositions towards the United States.—

I am Sir with Esteem & Respect
Your very Hble. Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Secty.
of State

——— „ ——— „ ———

From Edw. D. Turner

Fort Claiborne Decem 27th 1804

Sir—

I have received your favor of the 12th November and am fearful by the complexion of it, that Sundry documents I have sent you respecting the decree published or divulged by the Commandant of Natchitoches, has not got to hand; if they had, there could be no doubt in your mind of the certainty of his culpability the letter I enclosed you from Mr. Davenport to Dr. Sibley, establishes it to a certainty, in that he says "there is such a "decree, and the Commandant means to put it in execu-"tion" Mr. Pulbit the Gentleman who first gave me the information, will shortly be in Town, when he will acquaint you with particulars— Even the Negroes themselves acknowledge that they first received the intelligence from Spaniards, Inhabitants of Nacogdoches.— Mr. Barr being in the power of the Spanish, it would militate against him undoubtedly to expose him—

Recent arrivals from the Spanish County inform that a Thousand Families are ordered from the populous parts of the Country to move to the Frontier— that the Troops to Garrison Matagorda, *are to come from the Havanah,*— and that an Express from some part of the interior, had heard on his way, Cannons fire in the direction of Matagorda, from which, it was supposed that the Troops had arrived— from the supposition the Commandant instantly dispatched a Message to the Governor of St. Antonio— the person who gives me this information also says, that while he was at Natchitoches the Commandant rec'd letters from his friends in the interior congratulating him on being in the heart of the World, thereby meaning that he would presently be in the midst of a Peopled Country.— that Four Regiments are to be stationed on the frontier, that is at Nacogdoches and its Vicinity—

Mr. Dufonst the Interpreter has just laid before me the following intelligence—

"A Person just arrived from Rio Grande with whom I have been acquainted Seventeen Years brings the following intelligence— "The Governor of Quaguila, Province of Mondeva *Mr. Cordero is* appointed Governor of St. Antonio, and the Governor of that Place resigns, and is coming to settle himself at the Adia also "that as he was coming here he met returning Mr. Jno Walker" late of the Natchez) now a Cadet in the Spanish Service— "accompanied by a Lieut. and one hundred Dragoons, who had been surveying and taking a plan of the Rio Grande and Rio Quadalupi"— the latter of which is Six leagues this side St Antonio—

I have Sir the honor to be
Your Humble Servt
Edw. D. Turner

Governor Claiborne—Excuse inaccuracies as I write in great haste, having just read of a person going to Natchez, who is now ready to move.—

To Capt. Turner

Copy

New Orleans December 24th 1804

Sir,

Your letter of the 28th ultimo is now before me. The arrest of the Spaniard charged with the Murder of an American on the road from Appelousas to *Nacagdoches* is an act for which the Spanish Commandant deserves credit.

If the Murder was committed without the acknowledged Jurisdiction of the United States, we can take no cognizance of the offence, and therefore a surrender of the person accused to the American Government would be useless. But if the Murder has been committed within the acknowledged limits of the United States and the murderer be surrendered, you will hold him in safe keeping until the case can be enquired into by a competent Tribunal. It is not however my desire that you should make a formal demand of the offender from the Commandant at Nacogdoches.

I am Sir with great Respect your

most obdt St.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Capt. Turner.

(Copy)

To Edw. D. Turner

New Orleans December 28th 1804

Sir,

Your letters of the 21st Ultimo and of the 8th Instant have been duly received. The liberation of the Negroes implicated in the late Plot (but who did not escape) meets my approbation, and if the Masters of those who did absolutely desert, should be disposed to pardon them, I

should approve their release from confinement: But unless their Masters interfere you must detain them for trial.

In furnishing Indians who have visited your Post, with Rations, and a small supply of Powder, Lead, and Tobacco, you acted very proper; and I am certain that no exceptions will be taken by our Superiors.

The friendly disposition of the Indians towards the United States should be cultivated with great care, and your exertions in that particular, are noticed with great pleasure. I will forward to you by the first opportunity, three or four small Flags to be presented to the different Tribes; and you may assure them, that in due time ample provision will be made by their Father, the President of the United States, to supply them upon good Terms with all the goods they may want.

The Military movements in the Province of Taxus, do not excite anxiety. It is believed that the United States and Spain will amicably and speedily adjust the difference which exists as to the limits of the Ceded Territory. But if in this reasonable expectation we should be disappointed and a serious dispute ensue, you will no doubt believe me correct in saying, that our Country has nothing to fear from the Force of Spain.— It is nevertheless an object of importance to cultivate an Honorable peace and a friendly intercourse with all the World. By that wise and pacific policy our Government has acquired respect abroad, and confidence at home, accompanied with an increase of National Wealth and happiness.

I am Sir very Respectfully
your most obdt Svt
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Captain Turner
Civil Commandant
at Nachitoches.

New Orleans December 31st 1804

Sir,

I enclose you a Resolution which has been proposed in the Legislative Council. The Guard alluded to, says the Marquis of Casa Calvo, consists of a Corporal and three men, and is a part of a guard assigned to accompany him on the Line of Demarcation, and that he is appointed a Commissioner of Limits &c.

The Marquis has been requested by *me to discontinue his guard,* and informed that his person and property were perfectly secured by the Municipal Laws, but nevertheless if he wished it, he should be furnished with a temporary Guard from the American Troops. My correspondence with the Marquis on this subject commenced on the eighth of this Month, and to my last letter an answer is not yet returned.

The Resolution of the Council I consider as premature and improper. I do not think the Marquis is entitled to his Guard; but really it is not an object of serious concern. I know not what negotiations may be pending and I am unwilling to excite irritation on the part of the Spanish Agents. I will do nothing rashly. The Spanish Authorities might (if they pleased) subject the Americans to great inconveniences in West Florida.—

I am very Respectfully
your most obdt Hbl St
William C. C. Claiborne

P. S. A Copy of the Correspondence shall be transmitted you by the next Mail. In a Letter of the 25th July last, I mentioned to you, the existence of the Marquis's Guard, & from your silence, I supposed you considered it, as unimportant.

W. C. C. C.

The Secy of State.

New Orleans December 31st 1804

Sir,

I have never witnessed more good order than at present pervades this City; and as far as I can learn the whole Territory.— I discover also with great pleasure the existence of a friendly understanding between the Modern and the Ancient Louisianians. The Winter amusements have commenced for several Weeks;— the two description of Citizens meet frequently at the Theatre, Balls, and other places of Amusement, and pass their time in perfect harmony.

A great anxiety exists here to learn the fate of the Memorial to Congress. The importation of Negroes continues to be a favorite object with the Louisianians, and I believe the privilege of Electing one Branch of the Legislature would give very general satisfaction. Immediate admission into the Union is not expected by the reflecting part of society, nor do I think there are many who would wish it. I find in some anonimous publications to the Northward, I have been represented as opposing the assemblage of the people to sign the Memorial, and that on one occasion the Troops were called out in order to intimidate the Citizens.

These statements are incorrect. I never did oppose the meeting of the People; but it is true, that in the then unsettled State of the Government, I saw with regret any manifestation of public discontent, and the more so, since I suspected there were many designing men among us, whose attachments were foreign, that might labour to give an improper direction to the public deliberations.

I remember to have been strongly urged, to suppress by force the first meeting which took place in March last, and by some of those who are now great advocates of the Memorial. But I answered that "the people had a right peaceably to assemble together to remonstrate against

grievances'' and would not be prevented by me. In consequence several subsequent public meetings took place in this City, without experiencing interruption by me, or by my authority.

The Troops were under Arms on the first of July, and on that day there was a meeting of a part of the Memorialists;— But the Parade was altogether accidental. It is usual to Muster the Troops for inspection on the last day of every month. On the last day of June this regulation was prevented by rain and the following day it took place.— The Inspection and Muster were ordered by Colonel Freeman, and so little design was there in this Transaction, that neither Colonel Freeman or myself knew of the Mutiny until after the Troops were dismissed.

I am not in the habit of noticing anonimous publications, nor do I suppose much weight is attached to them at the Seat of Government. But in this remote Territory, events are so apt to be misrepresented, that I owe it to my reputation to keep you advised almost of every occurrence.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble St.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Secy of State.

To Major Claiborne[1]

New Orleans May 4th 1805

Sir,

I have taken the liberty to enclose under cover to you a Packet directed to Mr. James Williams which I will thank you to deliver. This Packet contains Commissions

[1] Beginning of Volume III.

for the Officers of the County Court of Concordia, together with Copies of two or three acts of the Legislature which point out their duty. The Postage which may accrue you will be pleased to charge to me. I have offered Mr. Williams the appointment of Judge of the County Court of Concordia, the Office is respectable, the duties important, and the perquisites arising are not inconsiderable. I trust therefore Mr. Williams will accept – at all events I hope he will consent to act until the Court is organized and I can have time to Select a proper character to Succeed him. The Packet for Mr. Williams is left open for your perusal!

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Major Claiborne
Natchez

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans May 4th 1805

Dear Sir

I have received your favours of the 10th & 14th of March and am indeed happy to find that the ungenerous attacks to which I have been Subjected,[1] *have not* made on your mind impressions unfavorable to me. I am aware that abuse, much abuse is the constant attendant on Offices under our Government. I had endeavoured to meet it with composure— But when I perceived a Political conduct, represented as vicious, which I knew to have been guided by the purest motives of honest Patriotism; and acts which in truth were benevolent and praiseworthy, represented as dishonorable;— and all this done

[1] Referring to antagonisms growing out of legislation by Congress.

by a faction who had recourse even to Subordination and perjury in order to Sully my reputation I must confess that my feelings received a wound which could alone be healed by conscious rectitude, and a belief that the confidence of the Executive in me was not diminished.

The Subject of the road through Florida has already received my attention and I persuaded myself that there will be no difficulty on that point. You may be assured that I will not be inattentive to the Interest of General La Fayette.[1] It is probable, that one thousand acres of Land may be obtained on the Canal of Carondelet, but whatever vacant Land there may be in that quarter shall be surveyed. Mr. Briggs is expected here in a week or two, but should his arrival be delayed I shall write him on the Subject and be governed by his instructions. With respect to the advantages &c of the other Lands which I recommended, I will very Soon write you fully. Accept the best wishes of your

faithful friend

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Thomas Jefferson
President of the United States

To James Madison

New Orleans May 4th 1805

Sir,

On this Evening the Legislative Council was prorouged to the 20th of June; They have passed many Laws which I trust will prove promotive of the general good; lest however some material defects should be discovered, I thought it best for the Council again to be in Session

[1] There seems to have been a possibility that La Fayette might make his home in Louisiana.

previous to their powers expiring. The Acts of the Legislature are now in press, and copies thereof shall be forwarded to you in a few weeks. The agents of Messrs. Sauve Detrahan and Derbigny are preparing for publication a Pamphlet in which I fear much will be said which will tend to agitate and divide the public mind. I have seen Messrs. Sauve and Derbigny and find the latter greatly disappointed and dissatisfied;– He considers the Treaty as violated and Supposes that the Government was uncandid to the Agents and unjust to the Louisianians:— He however expressed a hope that his fellow Citizens would be contented, and reconciled to the constitution which Congress had prescribed. I nevertheless fear, that in the pamphlet preparing by the agents some imprudent observations may be introduced.

For my own part I am still convinced that an early introduction of the entire Representative System into Louisiana would be a hazardous experiment, and I seriously doubt whether the Second Grade of Government will be conducted with discretion.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

To James Madison

New Orleans May 5th 1805

Sir,

In a late Letter which I received from Mr. Chambers the United States Factor at Fort St. Stevens he states, "The Letter you were pleased to obtain from the Marquis De Casa Calvo, authorized the Vessel to pass by the

Port of Mobile and the Commandant of the Port assured me We should return freely and without hindrance."

A Copy of my correspondence with the Marquis, upon the Subject of the Passage by Mobile of the Vessel alluded to by Mr. Chambers was forwarded to you on the 30 March. Captain Carmick[1] was Shipwrecked on the Lake, and was compelled to return to this City, he will again Set out for Pensacola in a day or two; the enclosure is a Copy of my Letter to Governor Folch.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

To Stephen Zachary

New Orleans May 7th 1805

Sir,

I pray you to lay before the Directors of the Louisiana Bank the enclosed copy of "an act making provision for the re-imbursement of the Loan to be made in virtue of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize a Loan for the use of the Government of the Territory of Orleans"

The Directors will perceive on perusing the act the Source from which the Loan which I heretofore Solicited is to be refunded; a Source which will be amply Sufficient, to meet the appropriation. Finding Since my last Letter to you that the demands upon the Treasury are greater than had been anticipated, I will now propose to Borrow of the Bank on the usual Interest, and on a credit not exceeding twelve months, for the use of the Territory the Sum of four thousand Dollars. Any Instrument of writ-

[1] The agent of Claiborne to the Spanish authorities at Pensacola.

ting in my official character which may be thought requisite to Secure to the Bank, the repayment of the Loan, I will at any time execute.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Most obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Stephen Zachery Esq.
Cashier

Private

Received of Edward C. Nichols heretofore Clerk of the Court of His Excellency the Governor, certain Books and Papers purporting to be the Record of the Said Court during the late temporary Government.

Signed Wm. D. Nicholson
Clerk of the Superior Court

New Orleans)
)
May 7th 1805)

To Capt. Turner

New Orleans May 7th 1805

Sir,

The Bearer John W. Alexander is appointed Judge of the County of Natchitoches and is ex Officio vested by law with all the powers which now devolve on you as Civil Commandant of the District. You will therefore be pleased to deliver to Mr. Alexander all the records and papers belonging to the Commandants Office.

Mr. Alexander goes to your Neighbourhood an entire Stranger, and I have refered him to you for information as to the general and particular character of the Citizens among whom he is to live. I also take the liberty to introduce Mr. Alexander to your acquaintance and friendly

civilities. You will find him a worthy and useful member of Society.

I cannot omit this occasion to express to you how Sensible I am of your vigilance and integrity in Office, to thank you for your faithful public Services and to assure you of my great respect and Sincere esteem.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Captain Turner
Natchitoches

To John W. Alexander

New Orleans May 7th 1805

Sir,

I enclose Several Blank Commissions which I will thank you to fill up with the names of the most intelligent and respectable characters of the Cunty of Natchitoches. I would wish the Coroner, Treasurer and two Justices of the peace to be Natives of the Territory, or ancient Inhabitants thereof, provided you can Select Such, as may be adequate to the discharge of the duties required of them: Two of the Justices of the Peace, I would wish to be Natives or Ancient Citizens of the United States. You will be good enough to inform me the names of the Gentlemen whom you may Select for the respective Offices, and I should be happy at all times to be favored with your friendly communications and Such information as you may Suppose might enable me to promote the Interest of your County. The Blank in the enclosed Commission for administering to you the oaths

of offices, you will be pleased to fill up with the name of Some respectable Citizen.

Accept my best wishes for Your Health and happiness

The Honble. (Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne
John W. Alexander
Judge of the County of Natchitoches

To His Excellency The Governor General of the Territory of Orleans

Sir,

The enclosed Copy will apprize your Excellency of the intelligence which I have just received from Baton Rouge; and if it be correct as it appears to be that Kemper and his adherents are attempting to renew their Hostile designs, there is no doubt but the repose and tranquility of both Territories will be thereby endangered. In the present critical State of Affairs, when the negociations Set on foot between Spain and the United States are pending it seems to be our duty to quell those disturbances on their beginning, and if necessity requires it, to repress them by force of arms each within our own Jurisdiction; otherwise we shall undoubtedly see our respective Territories involved in danger. For that reason I must represent to your Excellency how urgent it is to take measures of prevention, one of these which I doubt not will be adopted by your Excellency will be to write to the Governor of the Natchez Territory and request that he will have a vigilant eye upon Kemper Cobb Randolph and others whose names are mentioned, and restrain them at least within the bounds of their duty. It is unnecessary to Speak to your Excellency concerning such other measures as might promote the Success of my wishes which I doubt not will perfectly agree with your own, namely to maintain the

public peace of this province by mutual exertions, to preserve between our two contiguous powers that harmony which should never be disturbed on account of their political opinions.

May God Grant your Excellency many years.

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans 6th May 1805

I certify the above Translation

(Signed) Moreau Lislet Interpreter

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of respectability in the District of Baton Rouge Dated April 22nd 1805

Two days ago being in that part of the Country called the limits, and Pinkney Ville, I learned with surprize that some time between the first and ninth instant there sailed from New Orleans three of the late Insurgents said to be Reuben Kemper, Arthur Cobb the Son and one other name not recollected, with an intention of going directly to New Providence, and there if possible to obtain English Commissions for themselves and others of their Companions, now residing in this District, and in the neighbouring Territory which Should authorize them to raize a body of Brigands.

Those now gone to Providence will return in an armed Vessel loaded with every necessary Military Store. They will leave the Waters of the Gulph near Rigolets, from thence proceed up Lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas into the River Amite, first having Sent off their Runners (who are actually engaged and on the watch) to inform their partizans of their Arrival numbers &c Both parties being prepared, they will enter the District in opposite directions with a view of plundering all, of massacreing many, and if Supported by the

English of conquering the District for them. Those marked particularly for assassination are Gov. Grand Pre, Captain Pintardo, Fulton Murdock, Kneeland, the entire Settlement of Bayou Tonica, and several of the Inhabitants high up Thompsons Creak. A Band of these Brigands is already formed to perpetrate the most diabolical Deeds; but are yet restrained solely by the fear of rousing the United Force of Spain and America, and thus of cutting off all retreat. They impatiently expect the return of their agents which is looked for in all two months from the first instant, if they meet with the expected reception from the English and provided the Government does not change in the interim. The property plundered is to be removed by means of the above mentioned Vessel. Among those who advise, who aid and abet are beyond a doubt Kemble and Father, and Conrad Randolph of Pinkneyville, the latter altho residing above the line has a Store constantly at Bayou Tonica, which he conceals under the name of Bromfield, this gives him frequent opportunities to mislead and deceive the ignorant inhabitants. This Randolph is well known to be a man of the most infamous principles; capable of doing every thing but a good action. At this House are the assemblages of the Insurgents held, but in a very private manner.

The Success of the intended Plot is confidently whispered about among the Partizans"

April 22nd 1805

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo.

New Orleans May 8th 1805

Sir,

I have had the Honor to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 6th Instant with its enclosure. I should at all times lament the occurrence of events which could

tend to endanger the Safety or disturb the repose of a Neighbouring Territory. But at this moment when an interesting negociation is pending between the United States and Spain concerning the Floridas I should view with no common regret a revival of those disturbances which so lately menaced the tranquility of the Inhabitants of Baton Rouge and its vicinity. Your Excellency therefore may be assured that no exertions within my powers shall be wanting to prevent Kempers party from receiving succour or assistance from the Territories of the United States. It is evident that if Acts Hostile towards Spain should commence in and proceed from the United States or be committed by Citizens of the United States that the Laws of my Country are violated, and the Offenders ought consequently to be brought to Justice. I shall therefore immediately advise the Governor of the Mississippi Territory of your Excellencys communication, and I am persuaded he will direct such measures as his duty prescribes and the Interest and good faith of his Country require.

I am Slow to believe Sir, that such men as Kemper and his associates will receive from the British the assistance which you Suppose them to have gone in quest of. But should they actually return assisted and authorized by the British Government in the manner you apprehend, I have only to say, that the utmost vigilance shall be exerted on my part, to preserve the Neutrality of my Country from violation. In the mean time I shall transmit to the President of the United States a Copy of our present correspondence, with a view of receiving from him Some instructions for the further regulations of my conduct. A conduct Sir which you will always find in perfect consistency with the harmony and friendship now subsisting between our respective Nations.

I take this occasion to renew to your Excellency assurances of my very Respectful consideration

(Sign'd) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Gov. Williams.

New Orleans May 8th 1805

Sir,

I enclose for your perusal and information a Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of State to me Dated on the 12th day of November last, as also of a recent Correspondence between the Marquis of Casa Calvo and myself, upon the Subject of Kempers Insurrection. I think it very probable that the information received by the Marquis relative to the designs of Kemper, Randolph and their associates has been exaggerated; it is nevertheless my duty to advise you particularly thereof, and I doubt not but you will make Such enquiries as prudence Shall Suggest, and direct Such measures as the nature of the case may require and your duty Shall enjoin.

Accept assurances of my great Respect and Sincere Esteem

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Gov. Williams
Natchez

To Judge Danemours.

New Orleans May 8th 1805

Sir,

This Letter will be delivered to you by Mr. William Haugney on whom I have conferred the appointment of Clerk of Ouachita County Court. Mr. Haugney is repre-

sented to me as a young Man of Talents and great integrity of character;— I persuade myself therefore that he will be a useful member of Society. Mr. Haugney will deliver to you copies of three acts which relate to the duties of your Office.

It will afford me much pleasure to hear from you, and I will thank you for such information as you may suppose would enable me to advance the Interest of your County.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Judge Danemours
Ouachita

To Judge Collins.

New Orleans May 9th 1805

Sir

I enclose you Several Commissions, and will thank you to deliver them to the persons for whom they are intended. Mr George King is authorized to administer to you the oaths of Office required by Law, and you will yourself qualify the other County Officers.

I shall at all times be happy to hear from you, and to receive such information as would enable me to advance the Interest of your County. Mr King will hand you copies of several Laws which will point out your Official duties.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble Sert
/Signed/
William C. C. Claiborne

Judge Collins
Opelousas—

To the Sheriffs in the Territory.

(Circular)

New Orleans May 9th 1805

Sir,

In confering on you the Office of Sheriff of your County I have given you a strong proof of my Confidence in your Talents and Patriotism and above all in your Integrity. I trust that your conduct will be such as to increase that confidence and to recommend you still further to my esteem, and that of all good Men. Your duties are pointed out in the various Laws which you will receive, they are important and will require a great share of your attention; the various legal process which may be directed to you, should be executed with promptitude; and all monies which by virtue of your Office may fall into your hands, should be duly and speedily paid over in manner prescribed by Law. A defalcation on the part of a public Officer in money transactions inflicts a deep wound on his Character; and therefore ought above all things to be avoided.

I am well aware that many parts of your duty will be unpleasant, and may subject you to the ill will of those who, may through your public agency be made to feel the energy of the Law. This is to be regretted, but there is a manner of discharging an unpleasant duty which never fails to soften resentment, and most generally begets the friendship of those with whom we act.

Your own reflection and discretion will point out that manner. I will only recommend the observance at all times of the utmost equanimity of temper and politeness of conduct. This Deportment is not incompatible with a faithful discharge of duty.

The great body of the Citizens of your County being Strangers to the principles of the American Government,

may often times go wrong through ignorance of the Law; you will therefore act the part of a good Citizen if on all fit occasions you would disseminate such information as might tend to benefit Society and to reconcile the people to the new order of things. Feeling particularly desirous that your conduct in your present Office should conduce to your own credit and to the advantage of the Territory; I could not deny myself the pleasure of making you this communication

(S'gn'd) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the Different Sheriffs & in the Terty.

As well for Myself, as for my Successors in Office, I promise to pay twelve Months after date to the President and Directors of the Louisiana Bank or their order four thousand Dollars, which sum I have this day Borrowed for the use of the Territory in Conformity to certain Laws of the Legislature.

Given at New Orleans on the 9th day of May in the year 1805

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Signed in presence of)
Thos. L. Kennedy &)
George W. Morgan)

To James Pitot.

New Orleans May 10th 1805

Sir,

I have received your Letter of this morning together with its enclosures, and I can assure you of my Sincere disposition to relieve the Inhabitants of the Sixth Dis-

trict of this City, from those vexatious Indian visits of which they complain. I am however at present without an Indian Interpreter, nor do I know of one whose services I could command. If you Could recommend to me a Suitable Character, I will immediately give such orders as will secure these Citizens from further injury.

Accept assurances of my Respect & Esteem

The Honble. (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
James Pitot Esqr.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To James Madison.

New Orleans May 10th 1805

Sir,

The enclosures No. 1 and 2 are translations of a Communication to me from the Marquis of Casa Calvo, Nos. 3 & 4 are copies of my answers to the Marquis, and of a Letter which I have addressed to Governor Williams of the Mississippi Territory. Upon a perusal of these Documents you will find that Kempers Insurrection is not yet subsided, and that the movements of the man and his associates are yet sources of anxiety to the Spanish Authorities. It is certainly true that the people of West Florida are at present discontented; and that many would attach themselves to any well organized party whose object would be to rescue the District from the dominion of Spain:— But I do not believe that the information received by the Marquis, can be throughout correct. Of the departure of the agents for Providence and the intention of indiscriminate Slaughter and plunder which is talked of I cannot give credit to— I however esteem it a duty to take some measures of precaution and shall accordingly request the Captain of the

Revenue Cutter to apprize me of any armed vessel that may enter the lake, and will solicit Colonel Freeman to strengthen the Fort of St. John which is not far from the Rigolets. I shall also take Special care that the Insurgents shall receive no aid of assistance from this Territory. How far it would be proper in me to prevent a British Force from entering into that part of West Florida which is claimed by the United States is a question which I cannot well decide. I should therefore be happy to receive from you such instructions as would enable me to meet the wishes of the President.

I am Sir

The Honble. Very Respectfully
James Madison Your Obdt. Hble. Sevt.
Secrty. of State

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Wm. B. Shields.[1]

New Orleans May 10th 1805

Sir,

I now enclose you Extracts from the Records of this Province, together with an explanatory Letter from Mr. Ybanez which I trust will be satisfactory. I also enclose you Mr. Ybanez's account the settlement of which I presume will devolve upon you.

Accept assurances of my Esteem

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Wm. B. Shields Esqr.

)

Washington Mississippi Territory)

[1] For sketch of Shields see Encyclopedia of Mississippi History, Vol. II, p. 660.

To James Madison

New Orleans May 13th 1805

Sir,

I enclose you a Copy of an act for dividing the Territory of Orleans into Counties and establishing Courts of Inferior Jurisdiction therein. The necessary Officers for the more distant Counties have been appointed, and I have been fortunate enough to have acquired the services of very Suitable Characters. But in order to a due organization of the Counties lying on the Mississippi, I find it necessary that I should visit the settlements as high up as Point Coupee, and I propose setting out tomorrow on my Journey; I shall only be absent two weeks, and if in the meantime any *event* should occur which requires my attention, information *thereof* will speedily reach me. I make this short excursion not only with a view to the organization of the Courts but to reconcile the French Inhabitants to the new order of things, and to prevent the contemplated publication of the disappointed agents from exciting discontent.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great respect and Esteem

Your most obdt. Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secty. of State

To James Pitot

New Orleans May 13th 1805

Sir,

In the discharge of my public duties I find it necessary to proceed up the Mississippi as far as the settlement of Point Coupee. I shall set out on my Journey in the morn-

ing and expect to be absent about Sixteen or Eighteen days.

To you Sir is more particularly committed the care of the City, and I persuade myself that you will preserve undisturbed that good order which at present prevails. If however any event should occur interesting to Society; and which would require my prompt attention, I beg you to inform me thereof be express.

Wishing you Health and Happiness I remain

Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Pitot Esq.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To Col. Freeman

New Orleans May 13th 1805

Sir,

It is represented to me that Kempers party again menace the tranquility of the Baton Rouge Settlement and that there is some reason to believe that an English arm'd Vessel will in the course of two weeks enter the Lake Ponchartrain, with a view of co-operating with the Insurgents. I do not know how far this information may be correct, but at all events it seems to me to be a measure of prudent precaution to strengthen the Garrison of Fort St. John, and I request that the Command of that Post may be given to a Commissioned Officer to whom Such instructions may hereafter be given, as existing circumstances may require.

I am Sir very Respectfully

Your Hble. Sevt.

Lieut. Col. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Freeman

A Pardon

Juan Gillis, Torribia Gala, Manuel Sevilla, Miguel Obrador, Manuel Rodrigua, Jose Maria Milla & Jose Mendoza – Were Indicted for, and convicted of Burglary, during the late Temporary Government, and being recommended by the Attorney General to the clemency of the Governor, upon the ground, that as their offences had been committed during the Provisional Government, doubt might perhaps exist, whether Courts Since organized were competent to punish Offences committed under a different order of things. Whereupon his Excellency extended to the Said Offenders (upon condition that they immediately depart this Territory) his Pardon, this 13th day of May in the year 1805.

To Gov. Claiborne from Judge Hall

New Orleans May 13th 1805

Sir,

The Marshal of the District informs me that he has received notice to leave the Chamber in which the District Court of the United States is now held. It becomes necessary that I should immediately have a Court Room. The United States have hitherto been paying a considerable Rent for the place which I am now obliged to leave. If I am rightly informed, there are Houses in the City of Orleans belonging to the Public. In my opinion the Court of the United States ought to be furnished with one of them. The dignity of the Court, and the safety of the Public Documents demand that a Court House and necessary Offices for the Marshall and Clerk should be obtained. I have hitherto delayed to address myself to the Officers of the Federal Government in hopes that your Excellency would have provided me with a proper place.

I must now call the attention of your Excellency to this subject, and request you to assign me as soon as possible a proper situation, in which the Court and its Officers may be accomodated.

I am Sir with great respect
Your Excellency's most obdt. Hbl. Sevt.
(Signed) Dom. A. Hall

Governor Claiborne

To Col. Freeman

New Orleans May 14th 1805

Sir,

I pray you to read the enclosed Letter, and you will perceive, how I am urged to make provision for the accomodation of the District Court. I know not how to meet the wishes of the Judge without your co-operation; the fact is unless it be the House which you occupy, there is no public Building at my disposal, fitted for the Sessions of the Court. I feel great regret in subjecting you to any inconvenience, but if it is not in your power to appropriate a part of the Public Store Rooms to the accomodation of the Court, it seems to me that I cannot consistently with my duty, deny the Judge the use of the Building you now reside in.

I sincerely wish it were in my power comfortably to accomodate the Civil as well as the Military Authorities. But as it is not, the Civil Officers may of right claim a preference in the occupation of public Buildings not attached to the Barracks.

I am Sir with Respect and Esteem
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Lieut. Colol. Freeman

To James Madison

On the Mississippi 60 Miles from New Orleans May 18th 1805

Sir,

I left the City on the 14th Instant, and am thus far on my way to Point Coupee. The necessary appointments under the new Judiciary System are made as I pass, and altho I am not enabled on all occasions, to avail the Public of the Services of enlightened men, yet I am persuaded that the conduct of those selected will manifest the strictest integrity. When I left the City every thing was quiet, and I trust no event will occur to disturb the general tranquility. In the course of my Journey, I have found the Inhabitants contented, and apparently well disposed to the American Government. A few designing Ambitious Men would wish to create discontents, but it is probable they will not succeed. I was pleased to learn that the last Congress had made Provision for ascertaining the Legal Titles to Land in This Territory, inasmuch as an early decision, thereon, will promote the Interest of the United States, as well as of Individuals. We abound here in Land Speculators, and the present state of things are most favorable to their views.

A Gentleman residing in this Territory who passes by the appelation of the Baron De Bastrop, acquired several years ago from the Spanish Government, a grant for one Million acres of excellent Land, Lying on the River Ouachita. It is understood, that the Grant was made on condition that within a period which was named, the Grantee sould settle on the Land, a certain number of Families. The Condition has not been complied with; but the Grant has nevertheless been considered by the Grantee as valid, and many persons have taken shares and promise themselves therefrom much wealth, of this number is Mr. Lynch of Kentucky a Mr. Moorehouse formerly of New

York and Mr. Edward Livingston. These Men and Bastrop have for some time been disputing among themselves about the Titles, but they have at length accomodated all differences and propose selling out the Land on the best Terms in their power. I do not know that the Baron's Title will on enquiry be found invalid, but it seems to me that it should at least be enquired into by the United States, and that in the meantime, the Citizens generally should be cautioned not to make purchases of the Land in Question. If the constituted Authorities should remain Silent, the possession of these Lands will pass to innocent purchasers, who may hereafter have a strong claim on the humanity of the United States.

I am Sir with great Esteem and respect

Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Secrty. of State

P. S. I shall return to New Orleans in 10 or 12 days.

To James Madison

60 Miles up the Coast from New Orleans May 19th 1805

Sir,

I am this moment informed that the Marquis of Casa Yrujo is greatly interested in the Florida Speculation, or in other words that he has either accepted or purchased a portion of the Lands East of the Mississippi which were recently sold by Morales. I am not at liberty to mention the Gentleman who has given me this information; from certain considerations he wishes his name to be known only to myself;— but my informant has seen positive proof of the fact he communicates and his integrity is too well established, to permit me to doubt the truth of his

statements.— thinking it probable that pending the Negociation with Spain, a knowledge of the Spanish Ministers Interest in Morales's Sales might be serviceable to my Government, I have hastened to address you this Letter.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. St.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secty. of State

To Joseph Landry

60 Miles up the Coast from New Orleans May 20th 1805
Sir,

A Law of the Territory directs that the first and Second Acadian Coast shall compose a County, and that a Judge for the same shall be appointed, to whom certain duties now vested in you as Commandant, shall be confided.

In conformity to the Law I have appointed Mr. Michael Cantrell, the most ancient Commandant in the Territory, and I request that you would deliver to him the Papers and Records of your Parish. I have nominated you a Justice of the Peace, and left your Commission with Mr. Cantrell, who is authorized to administer to you the necessary oaths of Office. I am solicitous that in this new capacity you will consent to act, since your uniform correct conduct in private and Public life, is a Sufficient Surety, that your duties will be discharged with integrity and propriety.

Receive Sir my Sincere thanks for your faithful Public Services, and I pray you to be assured of my Respect and Esteem

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Joseph Landry Esq.

To James Madison

New Orleans May 31st 1805

Sir,

After proceeding up as far as Point Coupee and making many appointments under the new Judiciary System, I returned to this City on last evening. My excursion was a very pleasing one.

I found the Citizens in the enjoyment of much happiness, and apparently well disposed to the American Government. I was often detained by the necessary attention to Civilities, and the friendly welcome which was given me rendered such detention particularly agreeable. I trust and believe that my late absence from the City, has not been attended with any Public Inconvenience.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your most obdt. Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

Copy of a Letter from The Honble. Judge Hall to Governor Claiborne Dated

New Orleans June 1st 1805

Sir,

I have been visited this Morning by the Marshall of the District. He informs me that no Public Building has yet been delivered to him for the purpose of holding the Court. I assure your Excellency, that unless such a Building be furnished for the accomodation of the Court of the United States, I shall be obliged to Hire a private House at a Rent at least of from one thousand to twelve Hundred Dollars Per Annum. It is necessary that I should have a large Court Room, Rooms for Grand and Petit Juries— Marshall and Clerks Offices. I know of no

Building belonging to the United States in this City proper for those purposes, but that at present occupied by the Commandant of the Troops. I am ignorant that this Building has ever been appropriated to the accomodation of a Military Officer. One thing I do know, it is this, that the Officers of the Treasury of the United States will be astonished at a high charge for Rent of a Court Room, when they are already informed that a Building in every respect calculated for holding their Courts in, is the property of the United States.

I am Sorry to be obliged to press your Excellency on this point, but it is one that demands your immediate attention.

I am Sir with Respectful consideration
Your Excellency's most obdt. Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Dom. A. Hall

His Excellency
Governor Claiborne

P. S. With respect to the old Custom House and a House which I understand is Rented to a Printer, I assure you that neither will answer my purpose.

D. A. H.

Copy of a Letter from Gov. Claiborne to Colonel Freeman Dated

New Orleans June 1st 1805

Sir,

I should be happy to be favored with an answer to my Letter of the 14th Ultimo. I returned to this City on last Evening, and in the course of this day I have learned from several Gentlemen that you had received my communication of the above Date, and avowed your determination not to remove from the Public Building you at present occupy.

If this information be correct I will thank you for the reasons which influenced your Conduct.

I am Sir respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

P. S. I enclose you a second Letter which I have received from the Judge on the same subject. The Letter Just before written is the one alluded to.

W. C. C. C.

Copy of a Letter from Colonel Freeman to Gov. Claiborne Dated—

New Orleans 2nd June 1805

Sir,

I have received your Excellency's Letter of yesterday, and I received yours of the 14th of last Month. The latter was handed to me two days after the Date, I did not answer it because you were traveling, and because you were expected to return to Town in two or three Weeks.

When I arrived in this City from South Carolina the Quarters I now occupy were used as an Hospital or Barracks for Spanish Soldiers. Your Excellency had them removed and delivered to me the House. I came into it with reluctance for it was dirty and required great labor to put it into decent condition, and now that I have made it a comfortable dwelling I have not the smallest predilection for it, and I would remove from it with greater pleasure than I moved into it, if I were furnished with other Quarters. I have hitherto relied on Your Excel-

lencys repeated promises that I should not be disturbed in the possession.

There are no Rooms unoccupied in the Barracks,— there is not any House at my controul— Where shall I move?

If your Excellency had given me timely notice of your wishes, I could have applied to the Secretary of War for Authority to hire Quarters, and Judge Hall might have been put before this time into possession. I should not then have been under any embarrassment. I had every reason to believe that the idea of turning me out was abandoned, if it had ever seriously occupied your Excellency's thoughts. It must have been known to the Government that this House was my Quarters,— I reported so to the General.

I have shewn the Public Buildings to your Excellency and to Judge Hall — you were of opinion that they could not be spared. I have shewn to the Marshal and the Clerk of the Court, a building, not the printing Office, which they seemed to think would suit their purpose very well if it were repaired, which might be done.

I have written to the Secretary of War, who will I should Suppose, order me to rent Quarters.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect
your Excellency's most obdt. Hbl. Sevt.
(Signed) Constant Freeman
Lieut. Colol. &c &c

His Excellency
Gov. Claiborne

Copy of a Letter from Gov. Claiborne To Colonel Freeman Dated

New Orleans June 3rd 1805

Sir,

I did not expect an answer to my Letter of the 14th Ultimo which was written the Morning of my departure, until my return to the City. But I did expect, that the

receipt of that Letter, (and your determination thereon) would first have been communicated to me, before its contents had been made known to others. Near twelve months ago you were put in possession of your present Quarters by my authority, and was told that the Building did not appertain to the Barracks, that it had formerly been occupied as a Public School House, and that it was impossible for me to Say how long your continuance therein could be permitted. The circumstance of a few sick and disabled Spanish Soldiers being Quartered there on your arrival, was altogether accidental. They were (I learn) removed from the Barracks to make way for our Troops, and permitted temporarily to remain in the School Room; I know that the inside of the House has, under your direction been improved by the Artificers of the Army; but I have not understood that it has been a source of private expense to you. It is a truth that I have studiously endeavoured to accomodate the Civil Authorities in such manner as not to subject you to any inconvenience. With this view I procured with some difficulty accomodations for the Superior Court and Legislative Council in the Municipal Hall. On the arrival of the District Judge I had indeed no suitable Public Building to offer him, but under an impression that the Council would soon adjourn and that their Hall might be appropriated for the Sessions of the Federal Court, I suggested to the Judge the propriety of Renting a Room for his temporary use, stating at the same time my reluctance to disturb your Family, and which reluctance being equally felt by the Judge, he acceeded to my proposition. But the session of the Council was longer than was expected, and they will very soon be again convened. Besides the Judge for the County Mr. Workman has I learn applied to the Mayor of the City who has more immediately the Municipal Hall in charge, for the use of the Council chamber, and will I

learn obtain the same. Thus circumstanced, in what manner I ask, am I to accomodate the Federal Court? You inform me that you have "shewn to the Marshall and Clerk of the Court a Building, not the Printing office, which they seemed to think would answer their purpose very well if it were repaired which might be done." Will you be good enought to name that Building, perhaps it may be made to answer your purpose, and I am certainly disposed to make any arrangements that would mutually accomodate yourself and the Judge.

With respect to the repeated assurances which you say I have given that "you should not be disturbed in the possession" I can only remark that you have given to my expressions on the occasion, a construction which was not intended. I certainly did say that I would not subject you to any inconvenience as long as it was in my power to prevent it; and the exertions which I have heretofore made to accomodate the civil authorities is a proof of the Sincerity of that declaration. You have often told me that the United States were bound to find you *comfortable Quarters;* if so, and there should not be *such* in the Barracks, I should presume, there would be no impropriety in renting a House for your use; One thing is certain, that convenient accomodations for yourself and family might be obtained for a much less sum than would be required for a Building calculated for the sessions of the Federal Court. I learn from various quarters that you have received an impression, that the proposition of appropriating your present quarters to the use of the Court, is not only a great indelicacy, but an injury towards you. I persuade myself that you are not seriously so impressed. But if it be the case, I am

certain, that on mature reflection you will see no good cause for displeasure.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

P. S. I will thank you to favor me with the original, or a copy of the Letter from Judge Hall which was enclosed in my communication of the 14th Ultimo. My private Secretary omitted to take a copy of that document.

To Henry Dearborn.

New Orleans June 3rd 1805

Sir,

I this moment learn from the Collector Mr. Brown, that a Bill drawn in his favor on you for 1000 Dollars payable at six days sight and Dated on the 31st day of December 1804 was protested on the 29th of March last. I fear that there has been something irregular or improper on my part, or the protest would not have been made. Perhaps my Letter of advice was not received, or perhaps my authority to draw on you was not complete. But in any event, I trust you will do me the Justice to believe that whatever amount, I may have drawn for, has been expended on Public account and will be faithfully accounted for. But the authority on which my Draft on you was bottomed, was contained in a Letter from the Secretary of State, Dated October 31st 1803 notifying me of my appointment as Governor Pro. tem. of Louisiana, in which the Secretary says "No particular provision is yet made as compensation for the new service in which you are to be employed. The President

authorizes you for the present to draw on the Department of War, at a rate not exceeding four Hundred Dollars Per Month to be computed from the commencement of your journey to New Orleans." My Journey commenced on the first of December 1803, and my services continued until the 1st of October 1804, which entitled me as I supposed to the compensation of 4000 Dollars. But having been allowed a fund of 10,000$ for the contingent expences of the Government of Louisiana, I did not for some time draw on you on account of my compensation, being of opinion that the contingent Fund would be sufficient to meet my salary and all other expenses, but finding myself disappointed in this belief I drew on you on account of my extra compensation, on the 12th of July 1804 for 800$, on the 24th of September for 800$ and on the 31st of December for 1000$, the two first Drafts have been honored and the last protested. There is no part of my duty so painful as the one of incuring and accounting for Public expenditures;— I have exercised on all occasions the strictest economy, and I did hope that I should experience no difficulty in adjusting my accounts. But I must confess that the protesting of my Bill on the 31st of December has occasioned some anxiety, and the more so since I am uninformed of the reasons which occasioned it; and lest another Bill which I drew on you, on the 23rd of April for 600$ and of which you were advised in my Letter of the Same Date, might experience a Similar fate, I have prayed Mr. Brown (who yet has it in possession) to retain it until you shall honor me with a reply to this communication; I shall also delay until then renewing my Bill of the 31st of December in favor of Mr. Brown and I pray to be Honored with your answer as early as may be convenient, in order that if my authority to draw on you be not acknowledged, I may make immediate arrangements to reimburse Mr.

Brown the amount of the original Bill with costs of Protest.

I have the Honor to be Sir very respectfully
Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William Chs. C. Claiborne
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

To James Madison.

New Orleans June 3rd 1805

Sir,

I was this day Honored with your Letter of the first of April. The appropriation Law to which you allude has not been received by me, nor has it reached any Public officer in this City; I hope however, that in the Contingent Fund for the Executive Department of this Territory, Congress has been liberal, for I find the expences were necessarily greater than I had anticipated. I am solicitous to have my Public accounts settled, and with this view it would afford me pleasure to visit the seat Government the ensuing Fall provided the state of things here would permit my absence. I do not know that Mr. Lacald (whom you name) at present resides in this City, but I will make enquiry, and Submit to the proper Law Officer how far his conduct in being the owner of the Privateer Engene Subjects him to legal animadversion I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. Graham arrived here on last evening and is in good Health. His assistance will afford me great relief, and I am persuaded I shall find in him the character of a faithful public Officer and an amiable Man.

I am Sir with respect & Esteem
your very Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) Wiilliam C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secty. of State

To Henry Dearborn.

New Orleans June 3rd 1805

Sir,

In my Letter of this morning I ought to have stated to you that in a communication from the Secretary of State Dated on the 1st of May 1804 he Says "that from the Receipt of your Commission as Governor and Commissioner until the Country was delivered on the 20th of December last you will be allowed your salary as Governor of the Mississippi Territory and your Actual expences not exceeding the Rate of 400 Dollars Per Month and from the period last mentioned 5000 Dollars Per Annum including your Salary as Governor of the Mississippi Territory &c" Altho this decision had lessened the compensation promised in the Letter of the Secretary of State of the 30th of October 1803, yet it did not repeal the Authority formerly given to draw upon the Department of War for my compensation and I did think that my Bills for a Sum not exceeding 2400 Dollars would have been duly Honored. I make this statement in order to convince you, that in drawing a Bill upon you I had good reasons to believe that it would have been duly honored. I now feel uncommon solicitude to have all my Public Accounts settled, and if it were in my power I should like to visit the Seat of Government for that purpose. I should also like to know whether my accounts with your department for Public monies expended while I was Governor of the Mississippi Territory have been examined and what has been the result. My Vouchers were regularly forwarded, and if received, I trust they will be found Satisfactory.

Every Cent which was received by me on account of the sales of Rifles was paid to the Military agent by your order. There are other inconsiderable sums yet due on those Sales, which I have requested Major Ferdinand L.

Claiborne to endeavour to collect and inform me the Amount. I do not recollect any Public transaction of mine of a fiscal nature in the Mississippi Territory, that I did not forward regular Vouchers for, unless it be an account of the receipts and expenditures attending the sale of three old Horses, which being Surrendered to me, by the Chactaws as the Property of American Citizens, were, after being duly advertized and no owner appearing sold by my order;— after discharging the expences which had accrued there remained in my hands I believe about twenty Dollars. This Sale took place shortly previous to my departure from Natchez;— I do not know that I reported to you these particulars, but they were noticed in my official Journal.

Doctor Sibley writes me that he has held a conference with several Indian Tribes at Natchitoches, and the result has been satisfactory. The particulars of which I presume have been communicated to you.

I am Sir with great Respect & Esteem
Your most obdt. Hbl. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

To Henry Dearborn.

New Orleans June 4th 1805

Sir,

Since my Letters of yesterday, I have again seen Mr. Brown the Collector, who having informed me that in consequence of the Protest of my Bill of the 29th of December, the Account of my Deceased friend Mr. Trist remained unsettled at the Treasury Department, I immediately paid to Mr. Brown the amot. of the Bill and

costs of Protest, which I was enabled to do, by the friendly aid of a Merchant who made me the necessary Loan.

I am Sir with Respect & Esteem
Your most obdt. Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 5th 1805

Sir,

I will thank you for an early reply to my Letter of the 3rd instant, and to inform me whether or not it is your intention to procure other Quarters than those you at present occupy. I wish this early information in order that if it should be found necessary, I may by the next Mail make a suitable representation upon the subject to my Superiors, and which I conceive the more necessary, Since I have understood that previous to your aknowledging the receipt of my first Letter, you had made your appeal to the Secretary of War. It may be proper again to assure you that the Building in your Possession never was considered as appertaining to the Military establishment; It is moreover the only Public Building in the City that can conveniently accomodate the Federal Court; and unless it is so appropriated Judge Hall supposes, that he cannot obtain a suitable Court House for less than one thousand or twelve Hundred Dollars Per Annum, and I am persuaded that comfortable Quarters for yourself and Family may be had, for less than half that Sum.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Hbe. Sevt.

Lieut. Colonel (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Freeman

To Gov. Claiborne from Col. Freeman

New Orleans June 5th 1805

Sir,

I had the Honor yesterday Afternoon to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 3rd Inst.

The Letter which I have written to the Secretary of War will probably reach the War Office about the 12th of the present month. I shall expect orders from the Head of the Department to which I belong – to those I will pay the most implicit obedience.

I have the Honor to be with great respect
your Excellency's most obdt. Hble. Sevt.

His Excellency (Signed) Cont. Freeman
Gov. Claiborne Lieut. Colol. &c

To Col. Freeman

New Orleans June 5th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of this Date has been received and from it I infer, that you do not propose relinquishing the Building now in your possession, without instructions to that effect from the Secretary of War. Such being the construction I placed upon your Letter, I deem it proper to declare that your continuance in your present Quarters, is not agreeable to me, Since by so doing the Federal Court for this District is subjected to great inconvenience, and the United States to an expense much greater than would be requisite to furnish you with other comfortable Apartments, I deem it proper further to inform you that to myself (for the present) more properly belongs the care and disposition of the Public Buildings not appertaining to the Military establishment, and I am assured Sir, that your conduct on this occasion will not

be approved by the President, to whom our correspondence together with Judge Halls communications will be submitted.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

To Gov. Claiborne from Judge Hall

New Orleans June 5th 1805

(Private)

Sir,

I have been visited this Morning by the Marshal of the District. He informs me that no Public Building has been yet delivered to him for the purpose of holding the Court. I assured your Excellency that unless such a Building be provided for the accomodation of the Court of the United States, I shall be compelled to Hire a private house at a Rent of (at least) from one thousand to twelve Hundred Dollars Per Annum.

It is necessary that I should have a large Court Room — Rooms for the Grand and Petit Juries— Marshalls and Clerks Offices. I know of no Building belonging to the United States in this City proper for those purposes, but that at present occupied by the Commandant of the Troops. I am ignorant that the Building has ever been appropriated to the accomodation of a Military Officer. One thing I do know it is this, that the Officers of the Treasury of the United States will be astonished at a High Charge for Rent of a Court Room, when they are already informed that a Building in every respect calculated for holding their Court in, is the Property of the United States. I am sorry to be obliged to press your

Excellency on this Point, but it is one that demands your immediate attention.

I am Sir with Real consideration & Respect
Your Excellencys most obdt. Hb. Sevt.

His Excellency (Signed) Dom. A. Hall
Gov. Claiborne

P. S. With respect to the old Custom House, and a House which I understand is rented to a Printer I assure you that neither will answer my purpose.

Dom. A. Hall

(The above Letter appears also on page 356)

To Judge Hall

New Orleans June 6th 1805

Sir,

I have received your several Letters of the 13th May and 1st and fifth of the present month, and Sincerely regret, that it is not in my power to furnish you with a Public Building for the sessions of the District Court. Colonel Freeman in pursuance (I learn) of the advice of Council, adheres to his determination not to retire from his present Apartments. He supposes that I have no Controul over the Buildings the property of the United State, and declares, that he will not remove, but by the orders of the Secretary of War. Thus situated I have but one of two Modes of procedure, either to have recourse to a Territorial Judge and compel his removal by the force of the Law, or to State the case to the President and await his decision.

The former might lead to further irritation and is avoided in full expectation, that Colol. Freemans Conduct will be censured by those whose power to direct him cannot be disputed.

In the meantime I see no other mode of accomodating your Court, but by renting a suitable private Building. I am aware that such Rent will be High, and that comfortable Quarters for Colo. Freeman might be had on much more economical terms. But this Officer will Listen to no terms of accomodation, and the Executive and the Judiciary must consent to submit to his Will, until the case is decided at the Seat of Government.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Judge Hall

To Gov. Claiborne from Judge Hall

New Orleans June 6th 1805

Sir,

Understanding that Colonel Freeman refuses to comply with your desire to leave the Building which is contemplated as the place of sitting of the District Court, and business of great importance pressing on me which requires immediate attention nothing remains for me but to direct the Marshall to hire a suitable House. I have examined the other Buildings of the United States and I do not find any fit for our purposes, the old Custom House which is now Rented is by no means a proper place, the place called the Printing Office is equally unfit. The Public Stores are filled with Arms and goods. I am sorry Sir, that it is not in your Power to procure the Building which is in every Point of view calculated for a Court House. I regret it the more, as it will be the cause of putting the United States to a considerable expense which I think it is our duty to avoid. I know the disposition of the Officers of the Federal Government to be adverse to unnecessary expenditure. On enquiry

I do not think that a proper place can be obtained, for less than from one thousand to fifteen Hundred Dollars Per Annum, and for no shorter period than a year.

I have now made every effort to prevent unnecessary expenditure to the United States. I must do your Excellency the Justice to say, that nothing has been neglected by you to effect the object. I have much to lament that our views are frustrated by a conduct which I am sure will not be approved at the Seat of the Federal Government.

I have the Honor to be with great respect and Consideration

Your Excellency's most obdt. Hble. Sevt.

His Excellency (Signed) Dom. A. Hall
Gov. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans June 6th 1805

Sir,

I pray you to lay before the President of the United States the enclosed Correspondence from No. 1 to No—— inclusive, between the Honble. Judge Hall, Colonel Freeman and Myself upon the Subject of Appropriating a Public Building to the use of the District Court. You will perceive from the Correspondence that the only Building of the United States in this City calculated for the Sessions of the Court is the one that Colonel Freeman at present occupies, and I am persuaded the refusal of this Officer to provide himself with other quarters will be viewed by the President as a Breach of that spirit of accomodation, which in this District more particularly should actuate every Public Character, and a manifestation of a great want of Respect for my Authority as the chief Magistrate of this Territory. The Colonel has enjoyed the possession of his present Quarters for near

twelve months, the repairs made to the House were not considerable; they consisted in White Washing and cleaning the Interior Apartments. The Work was performed by the Artificers of the Army and was not the cause of private expense to the Colonel. With respect to the Property of the United States in this Territory, and more particularly that which belonged not to the Military establishment, I considered it as committed to my charge, and in consequence have assigned to the Public Officers Such Buildings as were proper to their use, and there are others (of which you were heretofore advised) that have been rented by the Month to Individuals, and for the monies arising therefrom I hold myself accountable to the Treasury Department. I am Sorry that this little misunderstanding has arisen between the Colonel and myself, but the occasion suggests the propriety of my requesting, that the line of demarkation between my powers, and those of the Officer who may Command the Troops in this Quarter be distinctly marked, lest hereafter on a more important question a difference in opinion should arise. It is certainly true that I am not ambitious of Military Command, and it is equally true, that the cause must be great indeed, before I would have recourse to Military force. But while the Army is stationed in the Interior of this Territory, I should presume that a requisition from the Governor ought to be viewed as binding on the Officer Commanding. The Governor is more immediately responsible for the safety of the Territory, its situation is always best known to him. and if there are points where a Military force is requisite for the protection of Society or the support of the Laws, I think the Governor should have Authority to Command such force and not be dependent upon the Will or disposition to oblige of a Colonel, Major, or Captains who may happen (often by merit but sometimes by chance) to be the Commanding Officer.

I make these observations because very lately, when in consequence of certain communications from the Marquis of Casa Calvo, I had requested Colonel Freeman to strengthen the Garrison of Fort St. John, the proposition would not be acceeded to until the reasons of my wishes were communicated and the Judgment of the Colonel had approved the measure. If the intercourse between this and the Seat of Government was more certain and expeditious, It would perhaps be best that whenever the Governor might think a certain disposition of the Military force adviseable, that he should correspond with the Secretary of War, and that all orders should come through him. But in this remote Territory, when events might arise which would require not only an immediate movement of the regular Troops but the co-operation of the Militia as was lately the case at Point Coupee, it might be inexpedient to await the decision of the Secretary at War. There is one other point which I deem it expedient to mention; It is this, that the Officers Commanding Frontier Posts in this Territory may be instructed to communicate to the Governor all the occurrences which may tend to disturb the Peace of the Territory: An information the more necessary, Since in the event of Hostilities on the Frontiers, the co-operation of the Militia will be necessary, and in Such case early information, would enable The Territorial Executive to make the requisite arrangements. I beg you to believe, that I have written this Letter solely with a view to the Public good, and to remove all causes of future difficulty between the Governor, and the Military Commandant.

I am Sir with Respect & Esteem
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans June 6th 1805

Sir,

I enclose you a Paper containing a Publication of Messrs. Derbigny Sauvé and Detrahan relative to their Mission to Congress. You will find in this production evidences, of discontent, a want of information and of prudence on the part of the agents, but I believe the Publication will excite but little Interest in the Territory, and be productive of no Mischief. It may therefore be best to permit it unnoticed to Sink into oblivion.

We have among us Men who would sacrifice the Interest of any Country, or the Happiness of any people, to the gratification of their personal Ambition. That Such Men should be discontented with the present State of things, need not be a matter of Surprize, but I am persuaded the great body of the Citizens of Louisiana cannot be shaken in their Allegiance, or be made to think that they are not greatly benefitted by their Annexation to the United States. There has been a rumor that certain discontented persons here contemplated a Mission to France, with a view of soliciting the attention of the Emperor to the affairs of this Territory, and praying that he would enforce on the part of the United States the observance of the Treaty. But I rather view this as the passionate menace of Some disappointed, ambitious Sycophant, than the serious project of a party. If however this menace should assume the Garb of Sincerity, nothing shall be wanting on my part to bring the energy of the Law to bear upon all who may be concerned.

For sometime before, but particularly Since the War between England and Spain, there has been great intercourse between Louisiana and the French and Spanish possessions;– The Applications for Certificates of Citizenship, and passports are numerous, and notwith-

standing every precaution, I fear many adventurers, have obtained American protection, who owe to the United States no allegiance. So convinced am I, that this is the case, that I have thought it prudent to substitute for the passports which you sent me, and Instrument of writing (nearly similar in contents) in my own name, and Signature. Had your Passports been used on all occasions I should have required a great number, and your name by being frequently found in the hands of imposters, might loose that respect and credence to which it is entitled. Persons claiming Passports make Oath of their Resident-Ship- before the Clerk of the District Court, and have the same also proven by some other Individual: But I am sorry to say that Oaths are Sometimes disregarded, and Bona fide Subjects of Spain and France have obtained American Passports.

I am Sir with Sentiments of High Respect and consideration

Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

The Governor of The Territory of Orleans, presents his respects to Colonel Freeman, and begs to be inform'd whether the Garrison of Fort St. John has been Strengthened.

New Orleans
June 6th 1805

To James Madison.

New Orleans June 6th 1805

Sir,

Captain Edward Turner, the late Civil Commandant of Natchitoches is now in this City, and I have receiv'd from him much general and local information. Captain

Turner believes that the Spaniards have encreased their Forces in the Province of Taxus, and is certain that they have erected Several new Forts, and strengthened their former fortifications. He is persuaded also, that Spanish Agents have endeavoured to alienate the Affections of certain Indian Tribes from the United States, and that these same Agents have soured the minds of many of the people of Natchitoches towards the American Government, and impressed them with an opinion that Louisiana or at least the Country West of the Mississippi will shortly return under the dominion of Spain.[1] Captain Turner's Statement throughout is supported by a Letter I recently received from Doctor Sibley. He particularly Mentions that Spanish Troops had lately arrived at the Bay of St. Bernard, and were engaged in erecting two new Forts. The Doctor adds that the Commanding Officer at one of the Forts, had Sent a Message to the Indian Tribes to the following effect; to Wit "The Americans holding Louisiana was all wind; that they were gathering in upon them, and should soon have Forts at Appelousas, Attakapas, Natchitoches and near New Orleans, and if the Indians were wise they would abandon their new friends, and attach themselves to their old friends the Spaniards who would not forsake them." The Doctor received his Intelligence from an Indian Chief, and seems to give it entire credence. Captain Turner and Doctor Sibley both inform me, that the intrigues of the Priests at Natchitoches, have had an injurious tendency, inasmuch as they have weakened the allegiance of the Citizens by giving currancy to an opinion that they would soon become Spanish Subjects, and excited a hatred against the American *Government,*

[1] It was the opinion of Claiborne that the activity of the Spanish authorities at this time confirmed the rumor that an effort would be made to recover that part of Louisiana lying west of the Mississippi.

by representing, that *it* afforded no protection to Religion, and that an association with infidels (meaning the Americans) would dishonor the Shades of their ancestors, who had lived and died in the true faith. A character calling himself the Bishop of one of the Interior Provinces of Mexico, lately made a visit to Natchitoches; he travelled with great dispatch and in much Pomp. He appeared to be a man of great Literature, and of considerable address, he kept a Journal and took the Latitude of many places through which he had passed. His enquiries as to the Geographical Situation of Louisiana were minute, and from his general conduct it would seem that his visit was rather with Political than Religious views.

This Bishop was received by the Commandant at Natchitoches with respectful attention, and after resting a few days in the vicinity of that Post, took his departure for the City of Mexico & to which place there is said to be from Natchitoches a plain direct road, that can be travelled with facility at every Season of the year.

Doctor Sibley & Captain Turner both inform me, that they have seen a manuscript writing purporting to be the Official Journal of a French Officer who in the year 1719 was instructed to erect a Fort on the Bay of St. Bernard. In this Journal there are Letters from Official characters which shew that at that period the extent of Louisiana was a source of Jealousy to Spain, that a dispute as to limits had arisen between the Subordinate Agents of France and Spain, but that the claims of the former extended from the Perdido to the Rio Bravo, and were bottomed upon a treaty refered to in the correspondence called the Treaty of Cambria. Viewing this manuscript writing as an important document, I shall Solicit Dobtor Sib|ley in whose possession it now is, to cause a copy thereof to be taken and to transmit the or-

iginal to me for the purpose of being deposited among the Records of Louisiana. The Copy I will request the Doctor to forward to the Department of State.

I am Sir very respectfully
your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secty. of State

To the Post Master General.

New Orleans June 7th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 15th of March was not received by me until a few days ago:— Mr. Abraham arrived in this City when I was absent on a visit to Some of the Distant Counties, but I hope that on that account, the Public Service has not sustained injury. Previous to my departure I had written to the Marquis of Casa Calvo and to Governor Folch, relative to the passage of the Mail through that part of Louisiana called West Florida. The answer from the Marquis was satisfactory, and the Governors reply will probably be equally so. The Gentleman who was the Bearer of my communication to Governor Folch was one Ship-wrecked in the Lake, and proceeded a second time on his passage to Pensacola, but was pursued and driven back by a British Privateer; he however has at length I hope made a safe Voyage, and his return is daily expected.

Mr. Abraham communicated to Mr. Cenas and to my Private Secretary the arrangements he thought necessary for the safe and speedy conveyance of the Mail, and he seemed to think that the establishment of a Ferry across the Lake was the only measure wherein he required my assistance and on this point I have made the

proper enquiries & given the necessary instructions. The Lake will for the present be crossed at a Point recommended by Mr. Abraham and other persons possessing a knowledge of the Country, and a Mr. Lafon has agreed to convey the Mail in a Safe Boat, and with all possible expedition. Mr. Cenas will however in a few days visit the Lake in order to ascertain more particularly the advantages of the crossing place at present and to make some permanent arrangements. The Post office money in my hands will be paid to your order, but I will submit to you whether the expense of sending by express my late Letter to Governor Folch upon the subject of the Post through Florida should be paid from the Post office money or whether it should be made an Item in the Contingent expences of this Territory.

Have you any late News from Mr. Monroe, and when may we hope to receive possession of the Floridas, until the Limits of the Ceded Territory are known, things here will never be in that tranquil and prosperous state which I so ardently wish.

I am D. Sir with great Respect and Esteem
Your Sincere friend and obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
the Post Master General

To James Pitot.

New Orleans June 8th 1805

Sir,

I have received a Letter from the Lady Abbess of the Ursuline Nuns in this City, in which it is stated, that in a late performance at the Theatre their community had been held up to the Public as an object of derision, and that the last Act was marked with peculiar indecency and

disrespect, and it is proposed to be renewed on Tuesday next, and She Solicits the protection of the Civil Authorities. For myself Sir, I consider the Police of the Theatre as falling more immediately under the notice of the City Magistrates, and that on yourself as Mayor of New Orleans particularly devolves the duty of checking the irregularities of the Stage.

The Society of Nuns in this City is under the protection of the Law, and their peculiar situation must interest in their favor the feelings of every breast. In full expectation therefore that you will use your influence and authority to protect this amiable order from injury or insult, I have addressed you this Letter.

I tender you Sir assurances of my great respect and Sincere esteem

William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Pitot Esq
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To the Abbess of the Ursuline Nuns.

New Orleans June 8th 1805

Holy Sister,

I am honored with your Letter of this Morning, and its contents shall receive my immediate attention. I greatly regret that a Representation at the Theatre should have been marked with indecency and disrespect towards your Amiable community, and I shall use my influence to prevent a repetition of an occurrence which every good Citizen must lament.

I renew to you holy Sister Assurances of my great respect and Sincere Esteem!

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the Lady Abbess of the Ursuline Nuns

To Thomas Jefferson.

New Orleans June 9th 1805

Dr. Sir,

I did not until four days ago receive your Letter of the 26th of March & I pray you to be assured, that its contents shall receive my careful attention. Mr. Briggs is now in this City, and in the Course of a few days the Location and Survey on the Canal of Carondelet will be made under his immediate direction. The result shall be transmitted to you without delay. I do not know that on investigation the claims of the City to the commons will be found Strictly legal— But the use of them is so essential to the Health of the Inhabitants, that I should be sorry they should pass into the hands of Individuals. The Lands on the Canal of Carondelet, are not at present very valuable, but cannot fail to become so. You may rely upon my best exertions to promote the Interest of General La Fayette, not only from my disposition to comply with your wishes, but from my Friendship and Gratitude for a character who rendered my Country such eminent services.

This City is already becoming unhealthy. Many Americans will retire into the Country, and among them Mr. Graham[1] whose early departure I have most earnesttly advised For myself I am not under serious apprehension, and shall therefore for the present remain in the City where duty requires my presence. As yet the fevers are only Bilious—But it is feared in the course of the Summer we shall again be visited by that dreadfud scourge, which communicated to many Families (the past year) so much distress.

I am D. Sir with great Respect
your faithful friend

Thomas Jefferson (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
President of the United States

[1] The Secretary of the Territory.

To Dr. John Sibley.

New Orleans June 10th 1805

Sir,

I have received your Several Letters of the 26th of April and 2nd of May with their enclosures. I regret that the State of things in your County should be so unpleasant, but I reply upon the exertions of the Civil Officers to attach the confidence of the well disposed Citizens to the Government of the United States, and to defeat the Machinations of those who would wish to excite Discontent and disaffection. It is expected that the Council will be in Session on the 20th instant in conformity to their prorogation, but their powers on the 3rd of July will cease, and it is not presumed that they will turn their attention to any object but that of remedying a few defects which has been discovered in the existing Laws. The Accounts you have given of certain Tribes of Indians West of the Mississippi I have read with great pleasure, and it will no doubt be very satisfactory to the President of the United States. It would seem as if the Caddo Nation manifested a decided influence over the various Tribes of Indians, with whom our Frontiers can have connection. It is therefore certainly the best policy to direct your attention more particularly to the Caddoes whose present friendly disposition I am persuaded you will be enabled to render permanent. The manuscript writing which you mention is certainly an important Document, whether viewed as an acquisition to the faithful Historians who may hereafter turn his attention to to the discovery settlement and growth of Louisiana or as strong evidence in support of the claims of our Government to the Tract of Country lying between Perdido and the Rio Grande. You will oblige me if you will cause a Copy of the manuscript writing to be taken, and I will make the person whom you may employ a reason-

able compensation. The Copy I will thank you to forward to the Secretary of State, and the Original Manuscript I would wish myself to receive, in order that it may be deposited among the Records of the Province, I have communicated to the Secretary of State the above arrangement, and I am persuaded it will meet his approbation.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Doctor J. Sibley
Natchitoches

P. S. I learn from Captain Turner that the Manuscript was in the hands of a Gentleman whom he had engaged to take a Copy; if you find this Gentleman capable of taking a correct copy I have no objection to your employing him.

W. C. C. C.

To the Secretary of the Treasury.

New Orleans June 10th 1805

Sir,

I enclose you an account and Vouchers against the United States for 409 Dollars and 66 2-3 Cents which were expended during the last Provisional Government in Louisiana and which are not included in any account heretofore transmitted. I had wished to have sent on by this Mail a final Statement of my accounts, but am prevented from the circumstance, that Letters of Administration have not yet been granted on the Estate of Joseph Briggs my late private Secretary and to whom the United States was indebted. An administrator is expected to be qualified in a few days, and I shall embrace an early opportunity to have a settlement with

him. Upon the subject of my expenditures during the Temporary Government I can only say, that I was Governed by a prudent economy; if the charge of Printing and Clerk Hire should appear extravagant, I beg that the one may be attributed to the Customary high charge of printing in this City and the other to imperious necessity. During the Temporary Government the duties of my Office were peculiarly laborious;— Until the sickly season commenced the last year with the assistance of two Clerks and writing myself about Seven or eight Hours a day I was enabled to get through the Business; but during the Months of July August and September, I employed four Clerks, and it seldom happened that more than one of those were well at a time. Since the first of November I have employed a Private Secretary and promised him 800$ Per Annum. I discover that in the appropriation Law, there is no provision for an expenditure of this kind, but I trust, the Accounting Officers of the Treasury will allow the charge when I assure them, that the duties of my Office rendered necessary the services of such a person; and even now that the Secretary of the Territory has arrived I find a Private Secretary to me indispensible. Nor do I think the Secretary can well discharge the duties of his Office without the assistance of a Clerk. I find likewise that no provision is made for a Translator of the French and Spanish Languages, or an Indian Interpreter, but I trust a just compensation for the Services of these Characters will be allowed, when I assure you Sir, that their Services cannot be dispensed with.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
The Secretary of
The Treasury

The United States, To Wm. C. C. Claiborne Governor General and Intendant of The Province of Louisiana, Dr.

For Sundry Disbursements during the Temporary Government—To Wit

No. 1	To this sum paid Eliza Middleton for a Jail &c for the Civil Commandant of Concordia for 8 months & 26 days @ 10 P. Moh—	$88.66/100
No. 2	To this sum paid Doctor Watkins in full for his Services in my Office as a Clerk during the Temporary Govt.—	50.00
No. 3	To this sum paid Fontaine for Public Printing from 1 March 1804 to Feby. 9th 1805—	118.00
No. 4	To this sum paid Messrs. Belleurgy & Renard for Public Printing—	63:00
No. 5	To this sum paid Thomas Sirlles Kennedy in full for his Services as a Clerk in my office during the Temporary Government for the months of July Augt. & Septmeber 1804	150.00
	Total Amount	$469.66/100

New Orleans 10th June 1805

To Judge Trouard.

New Orleans June 12th 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you a Commission as Judge of the County of German Coast. I am particu-

larly desirous that you should accept this Office, because I am persuaded, that the duties thereof would be discharged by you with integrity and fidelity.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Mr. Trouard
Judge of the County of German Coast

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 12th 1805

Sir,

I will thank you to inform me at what period you propose removing the Troops into the Country, the position they are to occupy, and the number of Men that are to remain in the City.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 12th 1805

Sir,

I am advised by the Mayor of this City of a claim against the United States for 642 Dollars for the pavement and other improvements made on the Side Walk of the Streets adjoining the Barracks. As you appear to suppose that you have particularly in charge the Buildings of the United States in this City, or rather those in which Troops have at any time been stationed I presume

you will feel no difficulty in adjusting this account as a Public Agent, and I shall therefore refer the Mayor to you for a settlement.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 12th 1805

Sir,

I have received Your Letter of the Morning and am indebted for this evidence of your polite attention. The Guard at the Government House is only intended to give security to the Records of the Province which are deposited in one of the lower Rooms; I presume a Non-Commissioned Officer and three privates will be sufficient. The orderly whom you are good enough to furnish me with I find very useful and particularly so in conveying Official Letters and Notes from my Office to persons residing in the City. I have however no favorite Non Commissioned Officer. Lieutenant Taylor has promised to select for me a sober discreet man.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Mr. Audry.

New Orleans June 12th 1805

Sir,

I enclose you two Commissions, the one as Coroner for the County of German Coast, and the other as a Justice of the Peace.

I am particularly desirous that you should accept of these Offices, because I am convinced that you would discharge the duties with Fidelity and Integrity.

Receive Sir, my Sincere thanks for your faithful Public Services and accept assurances of my great Respect and Esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

M. Andry

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 13th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the Morning is received. My communications to you are always official and therefore an acknowledgement of their receipt will at all times be expected.

The Mayor will be requested to lay before you the Account against the United States, and I am happy to learn that you are authorized to adjust it.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 13th 1805

Sir,

The Captain of the Orleans Rangers having informed me that the Public Arms in possession of his company are unfit for use, I request that for as many arms as he may return to the Public Stores, you would direct the

proper Officer to deliver him a like number upon his receipting for the same.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 13th 1805

Sir,

The Mayor of the City is particularly desirous for the Settlement of a claim against the United States for improvements made on the side Walk of the Streets adjoining the Barracks, and of which I informed you in my Letter of yesterday. But since the receipt of that Letter has not been acknowledged, it has perhaps miscarried, I shall therefore again name the subject, and observe that the claim has arisen out of a Municipal regulation. Some time ago the City Council directed, that within a period which was specified, the side Walks of the different streets should be paved, and the Gutters repaired, that the owners of Lots should cause the improvements prescribed, to be made, and on failure that the same should be done by some person selected by the Mayor, and at the expense of the respective owners of Lots. In this way has arisen the claim against the United States, and it seems to me to be one that ought to be promptly paid. A similar claim will shortly arise for improvements made in the Front of the Lot you now occupy, and as I am not willing to take upon myself any public Agency that does not clearly belong to my Office, I request that you would inform me whether or not you suppose yourself authorized to adjust the claims alluded to in this Letter.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Hble. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 13th 1805

Sir,

Your last Letter is now before me. It is unfortunate, that we cannot understand each other. There is only one question to which I requested an answer, and that was whether or not you felt yourself authorized to adjust the accounts of the City against the United States for improvements made in Front of the Barracks. If you are Authorized to act on this occasion I have nothing to do in the Business, if you are not, the subject must receive my attention!

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 14th 1805

Sir,

I have organized Another Company of Volunteer Militia in this City, under the Title of the "Orleans Company of Light Infantry." It is composed principally of Young Men, Natives of Louisiana, and the bearer of this I. B. Dejan is appointed the Captain.

This Company is particularly desirous to be armed and equipped by the fourth of July next, and with a view to their encouragement, and to meet what I suppose to be the wishes of the President, I request that you would direct, that Captain Dejan be furnished from the Public Stores upon his receipting for the same, such number of Public Muskets as he may wish not exceeding forty.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison.

New Orleans June 16th 1805

Sir,

Two Spanish Schooners from Vera Cruz, have arrived at this Port, and are consigned to the Marquis of Casa Calvo. They brought with them a large Sum in Silver, report says One Hundred thousand Dollars, but it is believed the real Amount is much greater.[1] This money is said to be destined for the payment of the Pensions allowed to persons residing in Louisiana, and to meet the expences which the Marquis has or may incur as Commissioner of Limits. The religious dispute of which you have been advised, is not yet adjusted; the parties have resorted to a suit at Law, to determine the right of possession to the Church, and it is expected that a great share of zeal and acrimony will be excited. I have organized the several Inferior Courts in the Territory, and shall next turn my attention to the Militia. Your communication of the 1st of April is the last which has been received.

I have the Honor to be Sir with respect & Esteem

Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To Thomas Jefferson.

New Orleans June 17th 1805

Dear Sir,

A Mr. Lafon is now engaged in surveying the Land on the Canal of Carondelet. He supposes that about eight or nine hundred Acres may be had, nearly half of

[1] It was the thought of Claiborne that this money was intended to be used in organizing the movement for the recovery of the country west of the Mississippi.

which he says is excellent, and not subject to be overflowed. Mr. Briggs has been very unwell and could not in person attend the Surveying.

I am D. Sir with great respect
your faithful friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Thomas Jefferson
President of the United States

To the Post Master General.

New Orleans June 17th 1805

Sir,

The Map which I have now the Honor to enclose was made out by a Mr. Lafon from an actual survey of the Country which it delineates, and ought of consequence to be very accurate. If it is so no difficulty will be experienced in the Transportation of the Mail on the Route Marked out by the red lines along the Canal of Carondelet, the Bayou Gentilli, the Chemin du Chef Menteur to the River of that name, as the Road is so far well opened;— from hence for the present at least, the transportation must be by water through the Bayou and Lake Catharine across the Rigolets and then either up one of the Branches of the Pearl River to the residence of Mr. Favre, or along another one to a place marked on the Map Boisdore, or perhaps it would be better to terminate the Water Carriage a little to the West of this at a place marked (O) where once stood the village Marangoin, and from whence there is an old Indian Road leading through the Pine Woods in a Northern direction. From this place Mr. Lafon tells me it is according to his Maps about 130 Miles to Fort Stoddart. Should the

Transportation of the Mail by water along the Bayou Catherine &c be objected to, as more tedious and expensive than a Land Carriage, it is the belief of Mr. Lafon that the Government may open a road from the River Chef Menteur in the direction pointed out by the Red lines through the Ile Aux Pins and the Island at the Mouth of the Marongoin to Boisdore for $3500. The difficulties he says are not great, tho it would be necessary to throw up Small Levees in Some places, as the high winds from the South east occasionally force the Waters of the Gulph over the Bank at particular places.

Until this can be done my own impression is that the Route by the Bayou Catharine ought to be followed: I shall therefore recommend it to the Post Master here to send his Mail in that way until your directions are received.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Post Master General

To James Pitot.

New Orleans June 18th 1805

Sir,

I am Honored with the receipt of your two Letters in relation to the Corps of Gendarmery. Persuaded Sir, of the respectability of the Citizens to whom you have committed the Command of that Corps, I will with pleasure appoint them Officers in the Militia, and on tomorrow at 12 oClock in the forenoon, if the Gentlemen will attend at the Government House, the Commissions shall be made out.

Upon the subject of the claim against the United

States for the Banquettes, I would wish to have a personal conference with you, and promise myself that pleasure tomorrow.

Accept assurances of my respect & Esteem

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Pitot Esqr.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To James Pitot

New Orleans June 20th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 19th instant was duly received. The Span and Bridge Boards which you mention may be deposited for safe Keeping in the Artillery Park and such Police Officer as you shall name may at all times have access to them. Colonel Freeman will give on this occasion the necessary orders.

I thankfully acknowledge the friendly accommodation which several of the Public functionaries have received from the City Council, and as far as may be in my power you will not find me wanting in a return of good offices.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great respect

Your obdt. St.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Pitot Esqr.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 20th 1805

Sir,

The Mayor of this City, Solicits that "Such Spans and Bridge Boards the property of the City" as are commonly employed in the unloading of Vessels when the

same are not in use may be deposited for safe Keeping in the enclosure commonly called the Artillery Park.

Under an impression, that the desired accommodation will not Subject the Military to the Smallest inconvenience, I request that the Deposit of the Spans and Bridge boards be permitted, and that Such Police Officer as the Mayor shall name may have free access to the same.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 20th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 18th instant was received.

In relation to the movement of the Troops to Point Coupee and Natchitoches, I have only one wish to express, and in that I doubt not but you have anticipated me; it is, that the Offices Commanding detachments be instructed to manifest a respect for, and to cultivate a good understanding with the civil authorities, and that every caution be used on their parts to prevent the Soldiery from offering insult or injury to the Citizens. The general reputation of the American Officers, and the known discretion of the Gentlemen Commanding the Detachments about to march are indeed a Guarantee for their good conduct; but nevertheless an order to the effect mentioned, may be proper, since it is one of those imposing mandates which at all times and under all circumstances receives the attention of a Soldier.[1]

A Doctor Cooley residing at Point Coupee has by

[1] This polite intimation that the military should respect the civil authority was enough to arouse the ire of Col. Freeman.

Letter requested me to inform you that his professional Services would be rendered the Troops stationed at that place, for the pay and emoluments of a Surgeons Mate. If the services of a Private Physician for the Garrison of Point Coupee should be wanting, I am persuaded that Doctor Cooley would be found deserving of Confidence.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Colol. Freeman

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 21st 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the Morning is received. My communication of yesterday contained no reflection on the Officers under your command, and I profess Sir, to be at a loss for the cause of the very great sensibility you have discovered on the occasion. I know that it is not uncommon to give to Officers commanding Garrisons situated in the very Heart of a settlement, instructions similar to these which were suggested in my Letter of yesterday;— but in the case before us I believe it unnecessary; the discretion of the Officers about to March will insure their acting with propriety, and need *not the aid of instruction from their commanding Officer.*

I am Sir very respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Gov. Claiborne from Col. Freeman

New Orleans June 21st 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellencys Letter of yesterday.

I flatter myself that the Officers under my Command, will never require an order to respect the Civil Authorities, or the rights of their fellow Citizens.[1] I have received a Letter from Doctor Cooley upon the subject you mention, I shall return him an answer by Lieutenant Wilson.

I have the Honor to be with great respect

Your Excellency's most obdt. Hble. Sevt.

His Excellency (Signed) Constant Freeman

Gov. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 22nd 1805

Sir,

At Point Coupee there is a Public Lot consisting (I believe) of three Acres in Front and forty deep; On this Lot there is a comfortable Building in which the Civil Commandant was formerly accomodated and one or two other Small Houses. As I consider the Public property in this territory as more immediately in my charge I request to be informed whether any and what instructions *relative to the same,* you have given the Officer who is to be stationed at Point Coupee

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Hble. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

[1] The old, old quarrel between the civil and the military authority.

To Col. Freeman.

New Orleans June 22nd 1805

Sir,

Your Letter in answer to mine of this Morning is received. One of the Houses to which I alluded was possessed by Lieutenant Lewellin, nor do I know of any other Public Lot, at Point Coupee, than the one occupied in part by the Military Detachment.

Mr. Miller has not obtained permission from the Competent Authority to establish a Ferry at Point Coupee. By a Law of the Territory, all applications for Public Ferry's must be made to the Judges of the respective County Courts, and to that source Mr. Miller must resort. I hope my Letter of yesterday in answer to yours of the same Date was received.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

Colol. Freeman (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Message from Governor Claiborne, To the Legislative Council, at the opening of their Second Session on the 22nd day of June 1805.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council!

Being aware that your present session must necessarily be short, and believing that the approaching warm season would render an early departure from the City particularly agreeable. I shall urge only for your consideration, such Subjects as seem to me to require the immediate attention of the Legislature. The most important of these arises out of the Act of Congress further providing for the Government of this Territory. By the Ordinance to which that act refers, it is declared that the Court to be established in virtue of it, Shall

have a "common Law Jurisdiction", and that the Citizens shall be entitled to the benefit of Judicial proceedings according to the course of the common Law."

I recommend it to you to consider how far this constitutional provision will necessarily innovate upon your present System, and what measures may be expedient to prevent the inconveniences that might attend an unprepared transition from one mode of practice to another. I further advise that you proceed to regulate the fees and duties of Notaries Public. The continued and general complaint of the exactions of some of these Officers, can not be quietted without Legislative interposition.

In the Laws passed at your last session, for regulating the Practise of the Superior and County Courts, some ommissions have been observed; of them the most material is the want of some process enabling a Creditor to imprison Debtors until they make a full disclosure and surrender of their property, on oath; while you will perceive the propriety of Guarding the industrious classes of the community against imposition and deceit, I am persuaded you will esteem it a duty to protect the honest Debtor, who gives up all he possesses, and not in that case to suffer the loss of Liberty to be added to his other Misfortunes.

Under the act providing for the appointment of a Master and Wardens of the Port of New Orleans; I had availed the public of the services of very suitable Characters. They entered upon their duties with promptitude, and evidenced much faithful attention. But finding that the perquisites arising fell far short of meeting their necessary expenditures, they have recently all resigned. It is therefore worthy of enquiry what farther provision may be necessary to enable the Executive to execute a Law so essential to the good of Commerce. It will also be adviseable in my opinion, that you recon-

sider the means of improving our inland Navigation. But in whatever Bill you may form upon the Subject, I trust that while you hold out most liberal encouragement for useful enterprize, you will be careful to Secure the Public Interest against the arts and frauds of unprincipled speculators. These Fellow Citizens are the measures which I recommend. If there are others which ought to be adopted, I feel assured, that they will engage your attention.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne.

New Orleans June 22nd 1805

To James Madison.

New Orleans June 26th 1805

Sir,

The Legislative Council is again in Session they were to have met on the 20th, but a Quorum was not formed until the 22nd instant, and on the same day, I communicated a Message in writing, of which a copy is contained in the enclosed Paper.

I shall prorogue the Council on the third of July Sine die, and in the mean time, it is expected they will pass several very necessary Laws. An impression exists here that the Council does not necessarily cease under the late act of Congress until the first of November next; I myself hold a contrary opinion, but I should like to have your sentiments on the Subject. Colonel Burr arrived in this City on this Evening.

I am Sir very Respectfully

Your Obdt. Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To the Judge of German Coast County.

New Orleans June 29th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 25th Ultimo was duly received. I lament that any difficulty should exist on the part of Messrs. Andry and St. Amand as to the delivery of the Official papers now in their possession. I will however write to them to give up to you all the Records and documents belonging to their late Offices. So Soon as it can conveniently be done I will prepare and forward to you Commissions for those Gentlemen, whom you have recommended as Justices of the peace, and with their aid I flatter myself you will be able to get the Judicial Authority of your County into complete operation.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Judge of German Coast County

To James Pitot.

New Orleans July 1st 1805

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your Letter of the 26th June together with its enclosure which I take the liberty now to return, for as Colonel Freeman is more immediately charged with the Public Buildings in this City occupied by the Soldiers, I think it most proper, that he should transmit to the Secretary of War, the Account for the Banquettes near the Barracks. But as I am particularly desirous that no unnecessary delay may take place, I wil mention the Subject to the Secretary by Letter, and urge him to an early adjustment of the account.

With respect to the Muskets wanted for the Gendarmery I have to observe, that such as were in the possession of the Municipality (and I learn there are about twenty Stand) may be appropriated to their use; any repairs or alterations that these might want you are at liberty to direct. With much pleasure I would furnish Pistols and Swords, but unfortunately in those Articles the Military Stores are defective. I do not propose a Military Parade on the 4th instant, it is dispensed with on account of the very warm Season. But it is probable that the Officers of the Militia will on that day pay their respects to the Commander in Chief, and of course those of the Gendarmery will be expected.

I am Sir with Respect and Esteem
Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Jas. Pitot Esq.
Mayor of New Orleans

To James Pitot.

New Orleans July 3rd 1805

Sir,

I am this Moment Honored with your Letter of the 1st instant. By the existing Laws justices of the peace are vested with the powers heretofore devolving upon Syndics, as far as relates to the Levees Roads, and the police of Slaves. I have no objection to encrease the number of Justices of the Peace if it be necessary for the Public convenience, and will pay due respect to your recommendation of suitable characters, but I am inclined to the opinion that the City Council cannot revive the Office of Syndic's, unless they dispossess them of all Judicial Authority. The powers and duties of Magistrates

must be prescribed by the Territorial Legislature, and the appointments can alone be made by the Governor!

I am Sir with great Respect
Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Pitot Esqr.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

Speech—delivered by Governor Claiborne, to the Legislative Council, on proroguing them, July 3rd 1805.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council! I have attended in this Hall for the purposes of proroguing your session, and thus to close perhaps forever, the Political connexion now subsisting between us. The occasion has given rise to reflections, calculated to excite on my part, a great degree of sensibility. To you, Gentlemen, who have participated with me the Toil of Legislating for a Territory Situated as this has been, where a general innovation throughout the whole System of Government, presented a variety of Legislative objects, that required the exercise of a more than ordinary share of Talent and discretion;— Where prejudice and former Habits presented impediments to that progress of improvement, which experience had suggested, and reason Sanctioned; and above all, where party Spirit, lighted up by restless, and occasionally by unprincipled ambition, was too successful in producing distrust and inquietude; permit me to observe, that to Citizens, who neither influenced by any wayward impulse of the moment, or awed by the difficulties in view, attended with fidelity, and remained with firmness at the Post assigned them by their Country, a great debt of gratitude is due, and my sincerity cannot be questioned, when for them I profess much respect, and a sincere regard. Uncandid men have said,

and many have been deceived into the belief, that this Country became annexed to the United States under the most favorable auspices, and that therefore every dissatisfaction manifested by the people, may be attributed to the feebleness or wickedness of the local administration. To what degree of credit this statement is entitled you Gentlemen will know. But let the stranger be told, that at the period of the Cession, the aspect of affairs in Louisiana was not such as to Justify an expectation on the part of those intrusted with the Government, that their administration would for sometime, be otherwise than painful and perplexing.

In a Territory whose Citizens are for the most part either natives, or descendants of natives of France and Spain, who had long cherished a fond remembrance of the Country of their forefathers;— In a Territory that had been controuled by the Will of Arbitrary Chiefs, for near a Century, and Harassed by frequent change of Allegiance;— where past favors, had made those impressions, which like causes every where produce, the man indeed must be little acquainted with human nature who had supposed that in a Territory thus situated, the principles of the American Government could have been introduced without difficulty, or that the Public functionaries could have discharged their duties in Such a way, as to have conciliated the good opinion of all. That the people have experienced inconvenience must be admitted, but it was inseperable from the change of dominion. During the first provisional Government, probably some errors may have been committed, and these have too often been exaggerated, by the malevolent and designing. On this Subject, however, I feel no uneasiness as the errors of a good intention will readily be excused by a generous people;— but in relation to the calumnies to which I have been subjected, and their authors, I look down upon them with contempt, from that eminence on which

conscious rectitude has placed me. I believe I may confidently assert, that the provisional administration in Louisiana was commenced and conducted with consistency, as to the principles by which its acts were governed; a principle of mild and conciliatory justice, resolved on at an early period, as the best policy that could be pursued, in a District, where the harmony of the Citizens was secured but by slender ties, and where it was the daily labour of some to rend those ties Asunder. Armed as that administration was with extensive power, it was perhaps difficult, to avoid the Character of Tyranny, without being exposed to charges of defect on the other extreme. Superficial observers, and perverted minds are often unable to view the arm as otherwise than feeble, which then cloathed with power refuses to exert it. But the principle was fixed, and if occasions did occur that might have justified a departure from it, I nevertheless look back with pleasure to the forbearence that was so happily perservered in, and I feel proud in the reflection, that no unworthy spirit of resentment was at any time manifested by the Government or its friends. But whatever upon the whole may have been the defects of that administration, this much at least we find to be a fact, that the Country has Suffered no material injury from them; that through the favour of Heaven and the amiable disposition of the people in general, good order was preserved, private and public rights secured, and the Territory advanced in Agriculture, Commerce, Population and real Wealth.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council! I now come to the period: at which your labours commenced, and permit me to assure you of my great admiration of the judgment you have manifested in Selecting proper objects of Legislation. Your code of criminal Law, exhibiting a system at the same time mild and energetic, the judicious innovations which you have occasionally

made in the municipal arrangements of the Country; the wise Acts you have passed for the convenience encouragement, and protection of Commerce, as well for the internal improvement of the Territory; and above all, the laudable provision you have made for the introduction of Science and Literature, and for the education of the rising generation, will remain lasting testimonials of your abilities, discretion and real Patriotism. With respect to the Laws for the organization of the Militia, I have great confidence in their success; but a sufficient time, has not elapsed to give the operation of them a fair Trial. Within a period so limited as that of your sessions, and with such a diversity of duties before you, more could not have been expected, and it is a subject of congratulation that so much has been done, and done so well. Another important change in the nature of our Government now awaits us. The Congress of the United States, ever just to their engagements, and faithful to the Interests of all within their protection, have assigned the period at which Louisiana is to become one of the Sovereign and Independent States of the American Union. In the meantime the right of self Government is extended to this district under the like restrictions which have been laid on our fellow Citizens, in the other Territories of the United States. This species of Temporary Government has been found commensurate to the protection of Society, and the advancement of the general weal, and is certainly well calculated for the gradual introduction of those representative principles, on which the future Constitution of the State (when erected) must necessarily be predicated. But possibly there may be many, whom this new form of Government will fail to satisfy. It would indeed be a presumption unwarranted by experience, to calculate on universal approbation of any measure. The Best of Men may occasionally differ in political sentiments, and the investiga-

tion of their opinions leads to truth, and may be considered one of the salutary incidents of Political freedom. But unfortunately society is sometimes infested with members who argue not to enlighten, but to mislead their fellow Citizens, and who from motives of disingenuous ambition, or from malice, labor incessantly to raise themselves on the ruin of others. That there have been and still are a few Individuals, among us of that description, is I fear too true. Under their Patronage, Calumny may recommence its efforts— It may distort the most innocent actions, and pervert error into crime;— It may enter the threshold of domestic life, harrow up private feelings, and produce private distress: But the Distrust of the discerning, and the contempt of the good, will Sooner or later drive the authors into obscurity.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council!

After the Political change, on the eve of which we now are, there remains but one more which this Territory is destined to experience, and that is its complete incorporation into the American Union. We have heard Idle reports of various kinds, respecting Territorial Divisions, and patrial, and sometimes total retrocessions to foreign Powers, but these seem to me, to be the fanciful Chimera's of unreflecting minds. My firm belief is, that the Mississippi will cease to flow, e'er she ceases to behold Louisiana attached to the Empire of American Freedom. A disposition to encroach on the *Territories of others,* is foreign to the nature of our Government; but the perfect preservation of her *own,* is one of its vital Principles. Just to the *rights* of others, the American Nation will preserve *their own* inviolate, or perish with them.

Fellow Citizens of the Council!

I fear the range I have taken has been too extensive, and that I trespass upon your polite attention. Your

duties are closed. I declare your Session prorogued *Sine-die.*

You will retain my affectionate remembrance, and my best wishes accompany you.

William C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jury 3rd 1805

Daniel Carmick to Gov. Claiborne.

His Excellency Governor Claiborne

Sir,

As you may probably consider my long stay in Pensacola somewhat singular, I must inform you that I delivered your dispatches to Governor Folch on the 2nd June, and waited on him the 4th and requested him to Dispatch me as soon as possible, as I was very anxious to return to New Orleans, in a vessel that was to sail in two days. He told me that the Vessel should not sail without me, at the expiration of two days he told me that as there was a Brig in the offing which he suspected was an Enemy's, he could not permit any Vessel to sail, She proved to be a Brig from New Orleans that he had been expecting some time, and which he intended to fit out as a Privateer. I called on him again when he told me he was very sorry but that no Vessel could sail for one of two days, I afterwards learnt from a Spanish Officer, that the Port was not to be opened until the Privateer Brig was fitted for sea, which induced me to apply to the Governor for a passport to Mobile, when he informed me that there was likewise an Embargo there (which I have since Learnt was not the case) that he could not grant the passport; about eight days afterwards he gave me his dispatches, and told me I might go to Mobile, the

day following it was known that the Port was opened, but that the Governor would not sign their passport until the wind was fair, after waiting some days when I found there was no certainty when he would sign their Passport, and as the wind probably might come fair whilse he was asleep, and before His Excellency could be awakened might veer about, I took my departure for Mobile by Land, and got there on the 30th of June.

I am Sorry to Inform your Excellency, that when I had descended the River Mobile, I discovered that my Pockett Book which contained Governor Folch's dispatches was missing, and have every reason to believe I was robbed of it on the Wharf at Mobile. It was not in my power to return, and I proceeded as far as the pass of Christiana where I met a Vessel Bound to Mobile, by which I sent to Governor Folch informing him of the accident, and requesting him that duplicates of his dispatches might be forwarded as soon as possible, conceiving that it would be the most expeditious way of obtaining them, as I had met with so much delay myself.

I have the Honour to be Sir
Your most obdt. Sevt.

New Orleans (Signed) Daniel Carmick
July 4th 1805

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 5th 1805

Sir,

In a former Letter, I advised you of the Departure of Captain Carmick for Pensacola, with a Communication from me to Governor Folch upon the subject of the Post Route through West Florida. Captain Carmick was detained much longer than was expected, and has returned

without Governor Folchs answer. A Copy of Captain Carmicks Letter to me, the occasion is herewith enclosed; he was detained at Pensacola by the Spanish authorities, and I am inclined to think, that to their jealousy and suspicion may be attributed the loss of the Dispatches, with which the Captain was charged. I learn however that Governor Folch had no objection to the Post Route, and that his protection would be afforded the Post Riders. I fear it will be some time before the new Route will become Safe and expeditious. The Rider a Mr. Abrahams has been once here, and he represents the Road from thence to Fort Stoddart, as being difficult, and often interrupted by high Waters.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble.
Jas. Madison
Secty. of State.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 6th 1805

Sir,

On the third Instant the Legislative Council was prorogued, sine die, and I have the Honor to enclose for your perusal a copy of a Short address which I made on the occasion. Perhaps you will perceive on my part a greater share of feeling than ought to have been manifested, but the late state of party here was such that I could not well have omitted noticing it, and I am persuaded that the allusions made to the effects of Calumniators may have a good effect; not on them, for they are callous to every virtuous impulse: but with the people whom I trust will not for the future be as easily imposed upon by pretended Patriots. Finding that reports still

existed relative to the retrocession of Louisiana to Spain, and that Such reports tended to lessen the confidence and affections of the Citizens for the American Government, I thought it proper to express the sentiments contained in the latter part of the address and I flatter myself you will not suppose that I said too much on the subject.

I have the Honor to be Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. St.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secty. of State

To Thomas Jefferson.

New Orleans July 6th 1805

Dear Sir,

I have this day received from on Board a Barge several Trunks and Boxes directed to you, one Cage with four Birds, and a small living animal somewhat resembling our common Grey Squirrel. They were sent by Captain Lewis[1] to Mr. Chanteau of St. Louis, and by him transmitted to me. Finding that some of the Trunks and Boxes contained Peltry of various kinds, I had the same opened. The Skins had been wet and were a little injured, but by being carefully dryed in the sun, cleansed and put up in Barrells, I am advised that they may be preserved. I received no particular Memorandum of the contents of the Boxes, but I find that many of the skins are numbered, and of course I conclude, that Mr. Lewis's communications relating thereto has been forwarded to you, from St. Louis.

The little Animal seems to be sick & I fear will not

[1] Collections made by the Lewis and Clark expedition for the President.

live. The Birds are well, and have excellent appetities; — I shall be very careful of them, and propose forwarding the whole to Baltimore by the Ship Comet that will probably sail for that Port in fifteen days.

I am D. Sir with great respect
Your faithful friend

Thos. Jefferson (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
President of the United States

To Dr. John Sibley.

New Orleans July 8th 1805

Sir,

The Northern Mail has this moment arrived, and brought me a Packet from the President of the United States. In it was enclosed a Dispatch for you which is now forwarded; The Packet directed to me, came in a disordered state, the Letters were wet, and some of them scarcely legible.

I have the Honor to enclose for your perusal a Copy of a short address—which I made on proroguing the Legislative Council. I have nothing new to communicate; The Legislature did very Little Business; perhaps I shall pay you a visit in the Month of August. Captain Turner has been ill but is now on the recovery.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.

Doctor John Sibley (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Natchitoches

To Mr. St. Amand.

New Orleans July 9th 1805

Sir,

The Law of the Territory, having vested in the Judge of German Coast County, certain duties formerly devolving upon you, as Commandant, and Mr. A. Trouard

having been appointed the Judge, you will be pleased to deliver to that Gentleman all the Records and Documents belonging to your late Office.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Mr. St. Amand
late Commandant Second German Coast

To Manuel Andry.

New Orleans July 9th 1805

Sir,

I am sorry that you have declined the Acceptance of the appointments which were offered to you. From your former good conduct I was Solicitous to avail the public of a continuance of your services, and I therefore transmitted to you Commissions which I would alone confide to Men of Integrity, Talents and Patriotism.

Accept assurances of my great Respect
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Manuel Andry Esq.
late Commandant Second German Coast

To the Judge of German Coast County

New Orleans July 9th 1805

Sir,

I have this moment received your Letter of the 7th instant. You certainly had power to compel a delivery of the Records, but your forbearance was wise, and I accord with you in opinion that the Constituted Author-

ities should act with mildness, and use every Honorable expedient to attach the affections and confidence of the People to the new order of things. You will be good enough to present the enclosed Letters to Messrs. Andry and St. Amand; and I am persuaded they will immediately deliver to you the Records and Papers appertaining to their late Offices.

Accept assurances of my great respect & Consideration

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Judge of German Coast County

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo.

New Orleans July 11th 1805

Sir,

The President of the United States contemplates sending a Mission up the Red River with instructions to proceed to the sources thereof, and he proposes to confide the Same to the more immediate direction of the Honorable William Dunbar[1] of the Mississippi Territory; A gentleman whose Life has been devoted to Science. With a view to the safety of the Citizens who may be engaged in this undertaking and to prevent their receiving distructions from any subjects of his Catholic Majesty with whom they may meet, I solicit of your Excellency a Passport for Mr. Dunbar, and his Party. I persuade myself that this request will readily be acceeded to when I assure your Excellency that the object of this Mission is merely geographical and scientific, having in view nothing unfriendly to Spain, and for your entire satisfaction on that point, if you should think proper to send one or two persons to witness the proceeding, they

[1] For biographical data see Encyclopedia of Mississippi History, Vol I, p. 663.

will be received into the party and subsisted at the expense of the United States.

I take this occasion to renew to your Excellency assurances of my great respect and Sincere Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New Orleans July 12th 1805

Sir,

I enclose for your perusal, a Copy of a Letter which I this day received from the Reverend Mr. Walsh, together with my answer thereto. You will perceive that the Schism of the Church is not likely to be adjusted; I consider it a contest of an extreme delicate nature, and one in which I shall very reluctantly take part. But I suspect that the Marquis of Casa Calvo is the foreign Agent alluded to by Mr. Walsh, and if I should be furnished with evidence of his interference, I shall hasten to inform him, that his conduct is viewed as indelicate and improper. The Monk who heads the opposition to Mr. Walsh, is a Spaniard and devoted to the Spanish Government, there can be little doubt but the Monks from Havanna will come here with the like foreign attachments, but I cannot see how their residence among us can be prevented.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Jas. Madison
Secty. of State

To Gov. Claiborne from Rev. Patrick Walsh.

New Orleans July 11th 1805

To His Excellency Governor Claiborne
Sir,

Your Excellency is no stranger to the unfortunate Schism that has recently taken place in this City, nor to the interruption of public tranquility that has resulted therefrom, all proceeding from the Ambition of a refractory Monk, supported in his Apostacy by the fanaticism of a misguided populace, and by the countenance of an Individual, whose interference may fairly be attributed less to zeal, for the religion he would be thought to serve, than to the indulgence of private passions, and the promotion of views equally dangerous to religion and to Civil order. Your Excellency in common with every impartial observer, of the late occurrences, will do me the justice to own that I have done all in my power by the most conciliatory and charitable means to allay the ferment so unexpectedly and so undeservedly raised against the Authority with which I am vested. Whoever candidly examines my conduct, both on this, and on former occasions, during the space of Fourteen years that I have governed (from time to time) the church of Louisiana without any exception, having been made to my conduct, either in my Public or private capacity, will acquit me of any Ambitious or selfish views, as nothing but zeal for the Welfare of the Church, committed to my charge, Could Support me against the disgust, naturally excited by the ingratitude I have experienced, and the difficulties I have had to encounter, I cannot without being essentially wanting to my duty both as an Ecclesiastic, and as a faithful Citizen omit acquainting your Excellency with a circumstance, that seems pregnant with danger to public tranquility. I have been assured that two Individuals

whom I can name (instigated by a certain foreign Agent[1] (whom I also can name) have gone to the Havanna with the express intent of procuring a re-inforcement of Monks, to Support Father Antoine de Sedella in his schismatic and Rebellious conduct. I also understand that the arrival of this Re-inforcement here is daily expected. In giving your Excellency this information, I acquit myself of what I consider an incumbent duty: With respect to the expediency of permitting or prohibiting their introduction, I will not presume to offer any opinion: from what one has already done, Your Excellency will be enabled to Judge what many others of the Same Stamp are likely to do.

I have the Honor to be with due Respect and Sincere Regard

Your Excellency's M obdt. Hb. St.

His Excellency (Signed) Patrick Walsh
Governor Claiborne Vicar General

To Rev. Patrick Walsh.

New Orleans July 12th 1805

Sir,

I am Honored with your Letter of yesterday. The Schism in the Church is to me a subject of regret; it tends to disturb that Social intercourse which sweetens life, and to lessen the respect of the Citizens for the Ministers of the Gospel;— A respect which I consider essential to the good of the church. For if those who profess to be the followers of the meek and Humble Jesus, instead of Preaching Brotherly love and good will to man, and enforcing their precepts by example, should labour to excite dissension and distrust in a community, there is indeed ground to fear that the Church itself may cease

[1] The Marquis of Casa Calvo took an active part in behalf of the Spanish priest who resisted the authority of Vicar-General Walsh. Claiborne suspected it to be a Spanish intrigue.

to be an object of veneration. Under the American Government where the rights of conscience are respected, and no particular sect of religion, is the favorite of the Laws, the Civil Magistrates carefully avoid interference inn religious disputes, unless indeed the public peace should be broken or menaced, and then it becomes their duty to act.

I yet persuade myself that the dissensions in the Church of this City will soon cease, and that your laudable exertions to restore harmony and concord may be successful. But lest I may be disappointed in this reasonable expectation and the dissensions should be carried to such lengths as to require the notice of the civil authorities, I will thank you to designate by name the Individual, whose interference in the dispute you attribute, "less to zeal for the Religion, he would be thought to serve, than to the indulgence of private passions, & the promotion of views equally dangerous to Religion and to Civil order."

I wish you also to designate by name the two persons, "who have gone to the Havanna with the express intent of procuring a reinforcement of Monks," and I am particularly desirous to know the Foreign Agent to whom you allude. These requests are alone dictated by a desire to receive upon the subject, such information, as may be relied upon, and I hope that to you the assurance is unnecessary, that no improper use will be made of your communications.

The expected arrival of the Havannah Monks, and the conduct to be observed on my part, merit and will receive consideration.

I pray you Sir to accept assurances of my great respect and Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Revd. Mr. Walsh
Vicar General New Orleans

To the Commandant of La Fourche

New Orleans July 13th 1805

Sir,

The Law having vested in the Judge of Lofourche County, certain duties, now devolving upon you as Commandant, and Mr. James Mather having been appointed the Judge of said County, you will be pleased to deliver to that Gentleman, upon his receipting for the same, all the Records and Documents belonging to your Late office. I take this occasion to return you my best thanks for your faithful Public Services, and to assure you of my great respect and Esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To the Commandant of La Fourche

P. S. Mr. Mather will deliver to you two Commissions, the duties of which I persuade myself you will undertake.

W. C. C. C.

To Thomas Jefferson.

New Orleons July 14th 1805

Dear Sir,

By the last Mail, I had only time to acknowledge the receipt of your agreeable favour of the 26th of May, but I now propose replying to it more particularly. There can indeed be no question of Doctor Sibleys good sense and information, nor do I doubt his zeal for the Public Interest:— of the *private* character of the Doctor, I had no personal knowledge; but *it* having been attacked here with some degree of severity, and by persons who did not withhold their names, I thought it proper to apprize you thereof. I am inclined to the opinion that we shall experience very little difficulty with the Indians West of the Mississippi. The *Caddo Nation* has decided influence

over most of the Tribes in Lower Louisiana, and *they* are easily managed; *their* disposition towards the United States is already friendly, and with their Interest in our favor, and a just and faithful discharge of duty on the part of our Agents, I am persuaded the friendship of the Indians generally, may be acquired, and preserved. The Surveying of the Lands West of the Mississippi, and the measures prescribed by Law for ascertaining existing Titles will probably create among the people some dissatisfaction.[1] But I persuade myself that the good sense of the Citizens, and the assurances which will be given by the Officers of Government, that no injustice will be done them, but on the contrary, that their rights will be liberally confirmed, according to the equity of their cases, and not to rigorous Law, will serve to appease anxiety and to ensure general confidence. Upon the subject of the Mission up the Red River, I have made a communication to the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and of which the enclosed is a copy;— the answer is not received, but the subject shall be pressed, and the result early communicated to you. Your Letter of the 7th of January was duly received, and a correspondence between the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and myself upon the Subject of the new Post Route, immediately ensued. A copy of that Correspondence was transmitted to you, which it seems has miscarried: but a late communication from me to the Secretary of State (which I trust has reached Washington) will inform you more particularly. The Spanish Authorities do not object to the Establishment:— On the contrary they have promised it their protection. The Rider has been here twice, but regularity in this Route is not yet established. In compliance with a request of

[1] An inclination to adjust land titles in pioneer districts unfailingly meets with opposition of land holders, and this was especially true of Louisiana on account of the confusion arising out of French and Spanish grants.

the Post Master General, I have established a Ferry across the Waters of the Lake, and contracted for the conveyance of the Mail.

I am persuaded that the Mail may be carried from hence to Washington in twelve or fourteen days, but to ensure punctuality bridges must be erected, and Ferry's established, over every Water course where the fording, is not at all times practicable. The Legislative Council manifested a sincere regard for Literature and science, as appears from the acts enclosed, the one providing for the establishment of a Public Library, and the other a university in this Territory. To carry the same into effect, the zealous cooperation of the great body of the People will be necessary; I fear that co-operation will not readily be obtained; but the foundation for those desirable institutions is laid, and superstructures may be reared, as our means will permit. The Regents of the University have had a meeting and a Journal of their proceedings, I now have the Honor to enclose you marked A. The great and good man whom you mention would be a valuable acquisition to the University, and by being placed at its head, would not only hasten the Speedy accomplishment of the object of the Legislature, but give at once celebrity to the institution. Under these impressions, I propose convening the Regents in a few days, in full expectations, that they will elect Mr. Depont de Nemours President of the University, and invite his speedy removal to this Territory.

Upon the subject of General La Fayette's Lands, I will continue to render all the aid in my power, and will from time to time, give my opinion and advice to his agent Mr. De Plantier, who I am persuaded will be faithful to the General's Interest. I had caused a survey to be made on the Canal of Carondelet, and a Plat thereof is enclosed for your inspection. My Official Letters to the Secretary of State, will inform you, of the state of

things here;— The Inferior Courts are organized, and the Militia will next receive my attention. Colonel Burr continued in this City ten or twelve days, and was received with Polite attention. He has departed for St. Louis, and proposes to return to New Orleans in the Month of October next.

We have as yet had no case of Yellow Fever, but the fear of it has occasioned most of the Strangers to retire from the City.

I pray you to accept Assurances of Respect D. Sir from

your faithful friend

Thos. Jefferson (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
President of the United States.

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 15th 1805

Dear Sir,

Your Favor of the Second of June I had the pleasure to receive. Your Letter to Mr. De Plantier shall be delivered, and in his agency for La Fayette, he will receive all the aid in my power; For my Friendship for that unfortunate Patriot is very sincere, and I feel solicitous that the donation of Congress should prove a sure resource in providing for his own comfort, and the Establishment of his Family. I am desirous to learn the final Issue of the pending Negotiation at Madrid. I had always supposed that our envoy would experience much difficulty and delay. The great object of Spain will be to make the Mississippi the Boundary. Her Agents here avow it, and hesitate not to say, that on no other condition will Spain consent to an amicable adjustment;— But my impressions are otherwise. If Spain should find that

the United States will maintain their ground, and possesses themselves by Force of the Territory claimed, She will yield to our demands;— unless indeed a contrary Policy should be advised or prescribed by France, and I cannot conjecture any rational considerations, which could lead the Emperor Napoleon to wish a War with the United States.[1]

I have not found on the part of Governor Folch, that spirit of accommodation which I had anticipated;— one American Vessel (with Public Stores) was permitted to pass and repass the Fort of Mobile without interruption, but others have been brought to and duties exacted. The long and unnecessary detention of Captain Carmick at Pensacola, I consider as unfriendly, and the robbing him of his Papers on his return, (which I cannot but attribute to the Spanish Agents) evinces a Hostile Jealousy.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect and Sincere Esteem

Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Secretary of State

The Marquis of Casa Calvo to Gov. Claiborne.

To the Governor of the Territory of Orleans

Sir,

Persuaded that the Mission of the Honble. Wm. Dunbar for viewing and exploring the Red River to its source, planned by the President of the United States has no other object, than the acquisition of that Geographical and Scientific knowledge which may be made by the expedition,— I have no embarrassment on my

[1] Claiborne was always impatient of Spain's continued occupation of West Florida and repeatedly urged Jefferson and Madison to take possession by force of arms.

part to acceed to the request of your Excellency; but altho this River empties itself into the Mississippi, yet as the upper part of it runs into the Province of Taxus & perhaps even into another Province more remote, it seems to me prudent to communicate intelligence (of the Mission) to the Commandant General, to the end that being informed of it he may make his arrangements accordingly; and likewise send if it seems to him proper a person to accompany Mr. Dunbar to whom I will forward the Passport your Excellency requires, so soon as it may be desired. I entreat your Excellency to assure the President of my sincere desire to contribute as far as depends on me, to the success of this expedition, which I consider reciprocally useful and advantageous to both Governments. Your Excellency will likewise receive my warm thanks, for the generous offer of bearing the expences of the person who, on the part of Spain may accompany the one Commissioner on the part of the U. States, but since whatever may be done, will be on the account of the King my Master, to whose Sovereign knowledge I will make known the accurrence, that he may determine what is his Royal pleasure. To avoid the contingencies of War, I will likewise send this intelligence thro' the hands of the Minister Plenipotentiary of His Catholic Majesty near the United States, the Marquis de Casa Yrugo.

I advise your Excellency of this in answer to your Letter of the 11th; renewing with particular satisfaction my ready Willingness to serve you and my Sincere Esteem!

God preserve your Excellency many years

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans July 5th 1805

To Gov. Claiborne from the Marquis of Casa Calvo.

Sir,

Colonel Vincente Folch Governor of West Florida Says to me under Date of the 10th June last as follows—

"By the Letters of your Excellency of the 21st of February & 25th of April last, I am informed of what the Governor of that Territory (meaning Orleans) demands as to the Post which ought to come from Washington to New Orleans, on which affair I answered him by this opportunity (acceeding in imitation of your Excellency) to the Letter which he sent me by Captain Carmick, the person your Excellency mentions in your last above mentioned Letter."

I give this intelligence to your Excellency, that you may make what use of it, Seems to you proper.

God preserve Your Excellency many years.

New Orleans 16th July 1805

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Casa Calvo?

(Private) New Orleans July 18th 1805

Sir,

Mr. John Francis Mericult a Merchant of this City, having a claim against the Spanish Government proposes to submit the same to your Excellency, and I therefore take the Liberty to Mention Mr. Mericult to your Excellency as a Gentleman of great integrity of character, and to solicit for him your friendly protection.

It will always afford me pleasure to reciprocate good offices, and to render your Excellency in the Territory of Orleans over which I have the Honor to preside, any services in my power. I tender your Excellency assurances of my great respect, and High Considerations

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 22nd 1805

Sir,

My last upon the Subject of the Post Route through West Florida, informed you that Captain Carmick on his return from Pensacola, had unfortunately lost the answer of Governor Falch to my communication. But the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the Marquis of Casa Calvo to me, will inform you, that no objections will be made on the part of the Spanish Authorities to the proposed establisment.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 22nd 1805

Sir,

I received by the last Mail my Commission as Governor of the Territory of Orleans under the late act of Congress. At any time an evidence of the Presidents confidence would afford me satisfaction, but I must confess that the late renewal of my Commission, has excited in my Breast the liveliest emotions of gratitude and pleasure. An approving conscience, and a hope that my public conduct would be acceptable to those, whose approbation, I most desired, have hitherto enabled me to encounter many difficulties, and to pursue amidst much opposition the policy which my judgment sanctioned. The proof of that approbation has highly gratified me, and there now remains only one political object dear to

my Heart, and that is to discharge with fidelity the trust reposed, and thus to merit a continuance of the esteem and confidence of the present administration. I have received also by the last Mail Commissions for Messrs. Prevost, Graham and Thurston; the two first have been delivered, and the other will be presented on the arrival of the Gentleman for whom it is intended!

I am Sir with Esteem and Respect
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To Thomas Jefferson.

New Orleans July 22nd 1805

D. Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you a copy of the Answer of the Marquis of Casa Calvo to my Letter of the 11th instant, and to Subscribe myself—

With great respect
Your faithful friend

Thos. Jefferson William C. C. Claiborne
President of the United States

To the Collector of Baltimore.

(Private) New Orleans July 23rd 1805

Sir,

I have taken the Liberty to address to your care one Hoggshead three Boxes and two Cases directed to the President of the United States and which were this day put on Board the Ship Comet Captain McNeal bound for Baltimore. The Hoggshead & Boxes Contain curiosities which were collected bp Captain Lewis in his Voyage up the Missouri:— in one cage is a living animal

called the wild dog of the Prairie, and in the other are four Birds, called the Missouri Magpies. I hope they may reach you in safety, and I must ask the favour of you to forward them by Land, to the City of Washington.

I have the Honor to be Sir very Respectfully

Your Hbl. Sevt.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the Collector of Baltimore

John W. Gurley to Gov. Claiborne.

New Orleans July 22nd 1805

To His Excellency Wm. C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Territory of Orleans

Sir,

Agreeably to your Excellency directions I have examined the proceedings of the County Court of Acadia, holden on the Eleventh day of the present Month against the Negroes and Negresses named Babet, Baptiste, Julie, Son Soucie, Petit Marie, Venus, Milanee & LaFleur, belonging to Mr. James Roman; Thelamaque belonging to Mr. Alexis Miller; and Caudio belonging to Mr. Pierre Canelle.

The proceedings of the said Court, Copy of the Record of which is hereto annexed, have in my opinion been had according to Law; and considering the peculiar situation of the people of that County, and the very alarming nature of the Offence which has been the object of this prosecution, I cannot but take the liberty of recommending to your Excellency that the several Judgments set forth in said Record, should be carried into execution as Speedily as possible.

I have the Honor to be with the Highest Respect,

your Excellency obdt. Sevt.

(Signed) John W. Gurley

To Mr. Cantrelle.

New Orleans July 23rd 1805

Sir,

I received your Letter of the 15th Instant together with its enclosure; and finding that they related to a Judicial proceeding, I refer'ed the Same to the Attorney General, with a request to give me his opinion thereon. After Mature reflection, that Officer has addressed to me a Letter on the subject, which I now transmit for your perusal. It is the Province of the Court to appoint a time and place for the Execution of such Sentence as they shall direct, and it is the duty of the Sheriff to See the Judgt. of the Court, carried into effect, unless it should be suspended or dispensed with by an Act of the Governor, to whom the power of granting Pardons in criminal cases is committed. The Sheriff may employ whom he pleases to execute the Sentence of the Court.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Hbl. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
The Judge of Acadia County
M. Cantrelle

To The Mayor of New Orleans

Sir,

Being solicitous to forward in safety and with expedition to the County of Acadia, dispatches of consequence, I beg you to direct a Confidential Non-Commissioned Officer of the Corps of Gendarmery, to attend at the Government House, and await my further orders.

I would wish the Express to set out on this day, and

to arrive early tomorrow at the House of Mr. Cantrell in Acadia County.

I am Sir with Respect & Esteem
Your obdt. Sevt.

July 24th 1805 (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To the Mayor of New Orleans
Sir,

I have this Moment received your Note in answer to mine of this Morning:— Since I had the Honor of Making that communication, a Gentleman from the County of Acadia has presented himself at my office, on the very business for which I wanted the Gendarmery as an Express. So that I have now no occasion to avail myself of your Polite and prompt attention to my request.

Accept assurances of my respectful consideration
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

July 24th 1805

(Private) New Orleans July 24th 1805
Sir,

I enclose for your perusal a Letter to me from Mr. Derbigny, which gives information concerning your Model of a Machine which was forwarded to the Northward. I regret the delay attending your application for a Patent, but persuade myself, you will not attribute it to any inattention to your request. Mr. Derbigny supposes that Doctor Thornton will receive the Model of the Machine on its arrival at Washington, and will be disposed to serve you; I advise therefore that you write to him on the Subject.

Mr. Briggs will deliver you fifty Dollars, which have been returned to me by Mr. Derbigny.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
Sgnd Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Pitot.

New Orleans July 24th 1805

Sir,

Your resignation as Mayor of the City is Accepted, and Doctor John Watkins has been appointed your successor to whom you will be pleased to deliver the Records and Papers appeartaining to the Mayorality. I tender you my best thanks for your faithful Public Services; and I regret that your private Affairs will not permit your continuance in an Office, the duties of which you have discharged with zeal integrity and ability.

Accept assurances of my great Respect & Esteem

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Jas. Pitot

Late Mayor of New Orleans

Governor Claiborne presents his Compliments to Mr. John B. McCarty, and informs him that for the convenience of the Citizens generally in the upper part of the County of Orleans, he has directed the Election of Representatives to be held one day at Mr. McCarty's House, and hopes it will be no inconvenience to him.

New Orleans 26th July 1805

A Similar Letter was addressed to Mr. Riviere using the words (lower part) of the County instead of the upper Part.

W. C. C. C.

To James Madison.

New Orleans July 27th 1805

Sir,

In obedience to the law providing for the further Government of the Territory of Orleans, I have laid out the same into convenient Election Districts, and apportioned

the Representatives (to the number of Twenty five) among the several counties. A Copy of my Proclamation upon this subject, and of my Circular Letter to the Officers named to conduct the Election, I now have the Honor to enclose you. By an ordinance of the City Council certain repairs are directed to be made to the Side Walks of the Streets, and it was ordained that the owners of Real Property in the City, Should defray the expense of such improvements as were made in Front of their respective Lots. Improvements have been made in front of the Barracks, and the charge for the same, amounts to Six Hundred Dollars. The account was exhibited to me, but I had no authority to pay it, nor had Colonel Freeman to whom it was also presented. The delay in the settlement of this account it is feared, may retard the completion of a work, deemed necessary to the Health of the City; I therefore sincerely wish, that the claim might be allowed and speedily paid. I have however requested the Mayor of the City, to suspend all further improvements to Lots claimed by the United States, until I hear from you on the subject, and I therefore request an answer to this communication as early as may be convenient;— the proposed improvements would probably cost the United States about three thousand Dollars for their Lots, but would at the same time add to their value. I cannot See any objection to the expenditure, unless indeed it should be considered in the light of a Tax upon the Public property and unconstitutional. The Police of this City is becoming vigilant, and the Civil authorities throughout the Territory are now organized. I can therefore no longer see a necessity for the stationing of regular Troops in the Interior of this Territory. In this City one Company might be usefully employed, as a Guard for the Public Property, but a greater number appears to me unnecessary. The strengthening of the Works at Plaquemine, or the erect-

ing of a new Fort, at some strong Position on the Mississippi below New Orleans, I consider an object worthy the attention of the administration, and in this way I think a part of the Troops now here, might be well employed, and that others might with propriety be sent to some Frontier Post.

To Guard however against any difficulty with Spain, it might be adviseable to have a Regular force so Posted as to enable them to act with promptitude and effect, as well in attacking the Florida's as in defending this City, and I know no position more elegible than Fort Adams.

Accept assurances of my respect & Esteem

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To the Governor of The Territory of Orleans,

Sir,

In order to remove all doubts, and avoid the least motive which might occasion discussion, I desire to know and hope your Excellency will be pleased to inform me, if the persons employed in the Commission under my charge, the Officers or other persons vested with Public offices by my Nation, who are about to depart or intend to do it as soon as their Business be ended, are subject to pay the Municipal Tax imposed on Slaves, or exempted from it agreeably to the Privileges generally enjoyed by the Foreigners employed, or Travelling in Spain; in this last case I shall transmit to your Excellency a list of all the Individuals entitled to Such a privilege for the purpose of avoiding all manner of complaint on that account, and preventing any body from being exposed innocently

to the penalties directed by a Law which might comprehend them. May God grant your Excellency a long life! New Orleans the 27th day of July 1805

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

I do certify the above Translation—

(Signed) Moreau Lislel, Interpt.

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans 28th July 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 27th Instant has been received, and read with respectful attention. By the Treaty of the 30th of April 1803 a period was prescribed within which, the forces of his Catholic Majesty should be withdrawn from the Ceded Territory. Subsequent to the expiration of that period your Excellency was urged to direct the departure of certain officers, who had continued in this Territory, so long beyond the right and the occasion for it: But they nevertheless remain Stationary, and the circumstance furnishes ground to believe, that some of them, contemplate a permanent residence. For myself I cannot see with what propriety the Individuals generally claiming to be Officers of Spain, and who now reside in this Territory can claim any exemption from the Municipal Laws. I therefore advise, that such of them as hold Slaves, should make the return required by Law to the proper Civil Officer, in order to avoid the penalty which an omission may Subject them to. How far your Excellency and the Gentlemen attached to your Family, to whom I am disposed to pay every attention in my power, may be entitled to any peculiar exemption from the operation of the Municipal Laws of this Territory, is a question on which I shall solicit the opinion of the Honble.

The Secretary of State for the United States, and I therefore request of your Excellency a List of the Individuals "employed in the Commission under your charge;" and you will oblige me if you would add to the List, the names "of the Officers or other persons vested with Public Offices by your nation, who are about to depart or intend to do it, as Soon as their Business will be ended."

I pray your Excellency to receive assurances of my great respect & High Consideration

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To John W. Gurley

New Orleans July 28th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 25th Instant has been duly received. I am persuaded that your presence in the several Counties, and the explanation which you would make of the late act of Congress relating to the Lands in this Territory, would tend to Satisfy the Public mind, and to defeat the Machinations of those few wicked Men among us, who labour incessantly to embarrass and injure the administration. No pains ought to be spared to acquire for the Government the general confidence of the Citizens, and in particular, to convince them, that their rights for Land in this District, will be liberally confirmed according to the equity of their situation, and not to rigorous Law. With this object in view, I am of opinion, that your proposed visit to the Country may be rendered highly useful. But how far your Duties as Register will permit your absence from the City for six weeks, you can best determine:– It seems to me that for so short a time, and

at this particular season of the Year, when so little Business is transacted, that the care of your Office might with propriety be confided to some Gentleman entitled to your confidence, unless indeed; your instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury should be of such a nature, as to require your personal attendance!

I am Sir with great Respect
your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

John W. Gurley Esq.
Register of the Land office &c

To James Madison

New Orleans July 29th 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you a translation of a Communication I lately received from the Marquis of Casa Calvo, together with a Copy of my answer thereto. You shall be furnished also, with copies of such other Letters as may pass upon the same Subject.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

To William Dunbar

New Orleans July 29th 1805

Dear Sir,

I enclose for your perusal a copy of a Correspondence between the Marquis of Casa Calvo and myself upon the Subject of the contemplated Mission up the red River.

You will find that the Marquis is more accomodating, than you had anticipated and that the Passport is promised whenever application shall be made. You will be pleased therefore to name to me the Gentlemen whom you wish to be particularly mentioned in the Passport, and it shall be obtained and forwarded to you. It would seem that Governor Williams was destined to have a troublesome administration. It is indeed difficult to satisfy the People in the Mississippi Territory, and I fear the party you allude to, will never be reconciled to any Governor, who will not consent to be dictated to. I trust however, that all the well disposed among the Federalists will Support Governor Williams in his Honest exertions to promote the Interest of the Territory, and I sincerely wish his administration may prove Honorable to himself and useful to his country. In eight or ten days I contemplate leaving this City on a visit to Concordia, and propose to do myself the pleasure of paying my respects to you in person.[1] I pray you Sir to present me respectfully to Mrs. Dunbar and the young Ladies.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great respect & Esteem

Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Wm. Dunbar

To James Madison

New Orleans July 30th 1805

Sir,

I have this day drawn upon you in favor of Captain Daniel Carmick for 180 Dollars payable at five days sight. Captain Carmick was the bearer of Dispatches from me

[1] William Dunbar lived in Adams County, Mississippi Territory.

to Governor Folch, upon the subject of the Post Route through West Florida, and I promised to defray his expences. I would willingly have paid this charge out of the Fund appropriated for the contingent expence of this Government, but that fund is so limitted, that I fear it will not meet the expenditures which must necessarily be made within the Territory. I had at one time supposed that the receipt of Captain Carmick might be exhibited as a voucher in the settlement of my acct. at the War office, upon reflection it appeared to fall more properly under the head of Foreign expenditures, and therefore, chargeable to your Department.

I am Sir with great Respect and Esteem
Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Secretary of State

P. S. Captain Carmicks receipt is herewith enclosed as my Voucher.

W. C. C. C.

To John Watkins

New Orleans August 2nd 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the 26th Ultima enclosing copies of three Decrees of the City Council was duly received. With respect to the Decree which requires the destruction of the old Custom House, I will only observe, that the building was delivered to me as National Property, and has of course been considered as belonging to the United States. In a few Months Commissioners acting under an act of Congress will probably arrive in this City, whose Business it will be to investigate, and determine the validity of claims to Land. To these Officers, the Corporation may Submit their claim to the Land on which

the old Custom House is situated, and if the decision should be in favor of the City, the Agents of the United States will no longer exercise any acts of ownership over the Building in question;– in the mean time, it is not in my power to conform to the Wishes of the Council. With respect to the Decree which requires the evacuation of the Forts, and the destruction of the Works, the above observations are also applicable. The Forts were delivered at National property, and I cannot recognize the claim of the City but through a Judicial decision. I am however so strongly impressed with an opinion, that the stagnant water which accumulates in the old Fortifications, must prove injurious to the Health of the City, and I cheerfully consent to the Levelling of them all, except those of Fort Charles and St. Louis. These two Forts are Garrisoned by the Troops of the United States, and cannot be evacuated but in pursuance of orders emanating from the President. Desirous however of Co-operating with the City Council, in all measures which may conduce to the Health of the City, I have no objections to draining of the Ditches in the vicinity of St. Charles and St. Louis, under an impression that it can be done without injury to the Works. Upon the Subject of the third Decree, which requests that the Detachment of Regular Troops may be withdrawn from the lower Apartments of the Hotel de Ville, in order that those Quarters might be occupied by the Gendarmery or City Guard, I beg leave to make a few remarks. The Civil Authorities being now completely organized, I cannot see the propriety of a Guard by day at the City Hall:– for the better security of our property (by night) and to serve also for the safe keeping of offenders confined in the Public Jail, it may be proper to Post a nightly Watch at the City Hall, and to promote a regulation of this kind, I would cheerfully consent to the Removal of the Regular Troops. But if a Guard by day, as well as by night, is esteemed necessary, I submit

it to you Sir, whether upon the Ground of economy, and expediency it is not adviseable to avail ourselves of the services of the Regular Troops.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
John Watkins Esq.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To Henry Dearborn

New Orleans August 2nd 1805

Sir,

I have received your Circular Letter of the 19th of June, and so far as depends upon my Agency, be assured that nothing shall be wanting to carry into effect the Provisions of the act of Congress, for the more effectual preservation of Peace in the Ports and Harbors of the United States, and in the waters under their Jurisdiction.

Accept Sir assurances of my great respect & Sincere Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
The Secretary of War

To James Madison

New Orleans August 3rd 1805

Sir,

Having understood that Mr. Morales has been instructed by the King of Spain to dispose of all the Vacant Lands in West Florida, and to open his Office in this

City, I immediately addressed to the Marquis of Casa Calvo, a letter of which the enclosed is a Copy.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Secty. of State

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans August 3rd 1805

Sir,

I have this Moment understood that Don Juan Ventura Morales who stiles himself Intendant &c, has received orders from his Catholic Majesty, to dispose of all the Vacant Lands in West and East Florida, and that he (Mr. Morales) is about opening an office for the purpose aforesaid in this City.[1]

I will thank your Excellency to inform me how far the above information is correct, and in particular whether, it is expected that Mr. Morales will undertake to exercise his functions during his continuance within this Territory.

Accept Sir assurances of my great respect & Sincere Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New Orleans August 3rd 1805

Sir,

On the 30th Ultimo Mr. Gurley the Register of the Land Office, left this City, on a visit to the several Counties of the Territory, with a view of making such explan-

[1] The beginning of a remarkable attempt to impress the people with the idea that Spain was still in authority.

ations of the late act of Congress "for ascertaining and adjusting the Titles and claims to Land within the Territory of Orleans"— as may tend to check any disquietude which has arisen, and to insure the speedly execution of the Law. A Letter from Mr. Gurley to me, announcing the objects of his journey, and a Copy of my answer are herewith enclosed for your perusal!

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Secretary of State

To John Watkins

New Orleans August 3rd 1805

Sir,

I am Honored with your Letter of yesterday. You render justice to the Officers of the General Government in supposing them friendly to the encouragement of learning in this Territory, and I trust my future conduct will not diminish the present good opinion you entertain of my dispositions. I am aware that the Building now occupied by Colonel Freeman was formerly used as a Public School House, and I should be pleased to see it again appropriated to the Same laudable object. But any agency on my part, in relation to the Building in question, is for the present Suspended;— Colonel Freeman (to whom possession was given by my authority) has on a former occasion refused to remove unless by the orders of the Secretary of War. The case has been refered to the President to whom your Letter shall also be

transmitted, and I will feel happy in being instructed to dispose of the Building in the way you Suggest.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

To the Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
John Watkins Esq.
Mayor of the City of New Orleans

To James Madison

New Orleans August 3rd 1805

Sir,

On the 6th of June last I had the Honor to enclose you a correspondence between Colonel Freeman and myself, relative to a Public Building in his possession, which I desired the use of, for the accomodation of the Federal Court, but which the Colonel refuses to evacuate without orders from the Secretary at War. I am daily in the expectation of Hearing from you on that Subject, and I flatter myself that the Colonel will be directed to retire from a Building which for some weeks he has retained in defiance of my authority, and to the Injury of the Public Interest. But whether it should be appropriated to the Sessions of the District Court, or to the purpose for which it was originally intended, a Public School Room, the President will be pleased to decide. The Mayor of the City solicits that the Building in question may not be diverted from the laudable object for which it was designed, and that until provision be made for a public School he begs that it may be used as a Library Hall for the Public Library about to be established in this City. A copy of the Mayors Letter to me on the occasion, and

of my answer are herewith enclosed, which I pray you to lay before the President of the United States.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Secty. of State

To James Madison

New Orleans August 4th 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to transmit you a copy of a Letter from the Mayor of this City, communicating to me three Decrees of the City Council (which in their execution required my co-operation) together with a copy of my response. These Papers sufficiently explain themselves, and it remains only for me to say that the evacuation of the Forts alluded to in one of the Decrees, is considered by me as adviseable. The Forts give no security to the Town. Some eligible position for its defence and that of the Country Generally on the Mississippi ought to be selected, some where about the English Turn,[1] and should be strongly fortified.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To Henry Dearborn.

New Orleans August 5th 1805

Sir,

The Mail has this Moment arrived, and brought me your Letter on the 1st of July, to which I will particularly reply as Soon as I can have a conference with the

Marquis of Casa Calvo on the Subject to which you allude.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
H. Dearborn
Secty. of War

To James Madison.

New Orleans August 5th 1805

Sir,

On last Evening I paid a visit to the Marquis of Casa Calvo. He acknowledged the receipt of my Letter of the 3rd instant, and told me that an answer should be returned, as soon as he had received from Morales a communication which was minutely expected, upon the subject to which I had alluded, the Marquis added that he believed Morales had received instructions to sell the vacant Lands in West Florida, no sales would for the present be made, he thought that pending the Negociation things should remain in their present State, and he persuaded himself that the United States would on their part make no disposition of the Lands West of the Mississippi. I then observed that Spain was in possession of a vast tract of Country which was claimed by the United States, and until the dispute was adjusted, any Sale of Lands by the King of Spain would be considered as highly indecorous, and opposed to that spirit of friendly accomodation which it was the Interest of the two Nations to feel, and to manifest. With respect to the Sales of Land West of the Mississippi, I remarked, "that I did not believe that Lands without the acknowledged Limits of the Ceded Territory, would for the present be disposed of, until the dispute was settled, and ob-

served that Morales whom he represented as an unprincipled Man, would alone be benefitted by the proceeding.

I must confess that I feel much embarrassment, as to the conduct proper to be pursued on my part in the event that Morales should recommence in this City the sales of land in West Florida;— It would be insulting to the Government and might have injurious consequences. That many Citizens would be found willing to purchase, I have no doubt, and others weak enough, to draw from the proceedings, a conclusion that Louisiana or a portion of it would soon change Masters. I have myself supposed, that Morale's could not act in this Territory, in his official character, without violating the general Law of Nations! I am also inclined to think that the selling of Lands to Citizens of the United States, with a view to induce them to emigrate is an offence at Common Law, and which Law (as relates to Minor Offences was extended to this Territory by an act of the Legislative Council.

Thus impressed, I have contemplated having recourse to the Judiciary in the event that Morales should act the part conjectured. The absence from this City of the District Attorney (Mr. Brown) and the Attorney General for the Territory (Mr. Gurley) leaves me on this occasion without the benefit of counsel. But you may be assured that I will do nothing rashly and that the measures taken will be the result of my best Judgment.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Hble. Sevt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

To James Madison.

New Orleans 6th August 1805

Sir,

I forgot to Mention to you in my Letter of yesterday that in the Course of my conversation with the Marquis of Casa Calvo, he mentioned to me that his conduct here had been approved by the Minister of State at Madrid, and his interference in the affair of the Negroes who had escaped to Nacogdoches was particularly approbated by his Court, the Marquis also told me that the Spanish Minister D'Yrugo had been instructed to have him (the Marquis) recognized by the President of the United States as Commissioner of Limits &c &c.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

To Albert Gallatin.

New Orleans August 7th 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the third of May last was duly received, and will serve for the future to regulate the contingent expenditures in my Department. I regret that my estimate, which was enclosed to the Secretary of State in compliance with his request did not reach you in time to lay it before Congress, for I fear the appropriation for the present year will not meet my necessary contingent expences, but I shall use a prudent economy, and should it be exceeded, Congress will I am sure at their next session make the necessary allowance.

Since the first of October, I have always had one, and occasionally two Gentlemen employed in my office.

Their Services were essential to the Dispatch of Public Businesses and became the more necessary from the circumstance, that I had not the benefit of the assistance of the Secretary for the Territory. A benefit I am still deprived of since Mr. Graham[1] (who did not arrive until June) has in pursuance to my advice retired from the City and taken his residence during the sickly Months, in the Country. I have rented three Public Buildings, and shall apply the Rents, first to the repairs of the Government House, and the surplus if any to the improvement of other Public Buildings. An Account of my receipts and expenditures on this Head shall be regularly transmitted to you. The Members of the Council have all received their Per diem allowance, and the amount fell short of the sum appropriated.

I have made no arrangements for receiving my salary at the Seat of Government, and shall of course apply as you direct to the Collector of New Orleans.

I shall for the future annually transmit to you an estimate of the contingent expences which in my opinion are necessary for the Support of the Civil Government of the Territory of Orleans, and in that for the next year, I shall include such expences as may necessarily have been incured, and not provided for. I am subjected here to a variety of Little public expenditures which are not anticipated at the Seat of Government, and to which consideration if you add the extravagant charges made for services of any kind, I am persuaded Congress will be disposed to be liberal in their allowance for the contingent expences of my Department.

I have the Honor to be Sir with Respect & Esteem

Your most obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
Albert Gallatin
Secty. of the Treasury

[1] Secretary of the Territory of Orleans.

To James Madison.

New Orleans August 7th 1805

Sir,

In my communication of the 29th Ultimo was enclosed a Letter to me from the Marquis of Casa Calvo, soliciting that the Spanish Officers now in this Territory, may be exempted from the payment of the Municipal Tax, together with a copy of my answer thereto. I now have the Honor to transmit you a second Letter from the Marquis on the same subject, together with a List of the Officers he alludes to, and if it be not improper I should be glad to hear your sentiments, as to the propriety of the exemption solicited. My own opinion is that the Officers generally who possess property within this Territory, are liable to taxation, nor can exception be made in favor of the Marquis, and the Members of his Family, until he shall have been recognized by the President as an Agent of Spain. You no doubt will be surprized to find so many Foreign Officers in this City, the fact is Sir, they are wedded to Louisiana and necessity alone will induce them to depart. I have repeatedly by Letter and verbally informed the Marquis, that the continuance in this Territory of so many Spanish Officers, "So long beyond the right, and occasion for it" was not seen with approbation and urged their departure, the Marquis has as often assured me of his disposition to comply with my wishes, but you will perceive that the inconvenience is not yet remedied.

I have the Honor to be Sir with great respect

Your Hble. Sevt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo.

New Orleans August 8th 1805

Sir,

I have received your Excellencys Letter of the 5th Instant, enclosing a Copy of a Royal Decree, or order approving of the part you acted in relation to the Slaves that had escaped from Natchitoches and sought an Assylum at Nacogdoches. Persuaded that your conduct on this occasion, merited the approbation of your Sovereign, I am happy to find it so satisfactorily expressed; nor can I learn without pleasure, the friendly disposition of your Court towards the United States. The Harmony and good understanding at present prevailing between our Respective Nations can alone be preserved by the mutual interchange of acts of Justice, and in such I trust the American Government will never be found wanting.

I renew to your Excellency the assurances of my great respect and High consideration

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

Marquis of Casa Calvo to Gov. Claiborne

To the Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

Sir,

In order to give your Excellency an unequivocal proof of the sincere wish of the King my Master for preserving the Harmony and good understanding which prevail between our Respective Nations, I transmit to your Excellency here enclosed, an attested Copy of the Royal order by which his Majesty was pleased to approve of my conduct respecting the fugitive Slaves from the Post

of Natchitoches and surrendered at my solicitation, by the Commandant of the Post of Neustra Senora del Pilar of Nacogdoches.

May God grant your Excellency many years.

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

His Majesty has been pleased to approve of the Answer which your Excellency has made to the American Governor Claiborne, to quiet his complaints against the proceedings of the Commandant of Nacogdoches, which would have caused the ruin of the Inhabitants of Natchitoches by the loss of their Slaves, if they should have taken refuge in that Jurisdiction, this being an answer to your Letter No. 40. May God grant to your Excellency many years.

Aranjeury 17th of January 1805

(Signed) Peter Cevallos

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison.

New Orleans August 9th 1805

Sir,

I have this day received a duplicate of the communication to me from Governor Folch, which was lost by Captain Carmick on his passage from Pensacola to this City. It bears date the 6th of June last and Governor Folch thus expresses himself. "Captain Carmick in the service of the United States delivered to me your Excellency's Letter Dated the 26th of April last, whereby your Excellency requests my protection for the persons employed in the Mail which conformably to an order of the American Government is to be established from Washington City to New Orleans, and to go through his Majesty's Territory as far as Seventy Miles. I do accede to the solicitation of your Excellency, being sensible of the advantage which may result from such an estab-

lishment for the Public, and that it will tend to promote the good understanding which happily prevails between our respective Governments." There are now Sir no impediments to the running of the Mail from hence to Fort Stoddart, and I hope it may prove a Safe and expeditious conveyance for Letters.

I am Sir very Respectfully

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Your Hble. Sevt.

To Gov. Folch.

New Orleans August 9th 1805

Sir,

I was this day Honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 6th of June, and am happy to find that the Carriers of the Mail of the United States on their Route through West Florida will receive the protection of your Excellency. The information you communicate relative to the assembling of Kempers party at Pinckneyville was made known to me some time since by the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and I immediately took such measures as were calculated to prevent those Insurgents from receiving countenance or aid from the Territory of Orleans, and addressed a Letter upon the subject to Gov. Williams of the Mississippi Territory, who I am persuaded will take on his part the like precautions.

I request your Excellency to be convinced of my sincere disposition to promote the good understanding which happily prevails between our respective Governments, and to receive the assurances of my great respect and High Consideration.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
Gov. Folch
Pensacola

To James Madison.

New Orleans August 10th 1805

Sir,

I now transmit you a copy of the Marquis's answer marked (no. 1) to my Letter of the 3rd Instant. You will perceive Sir, that Morales has Authority to continue his sales in West Florida; that he contemplates residing in this City, and proposes to issue Official orders from hence as Intendant of East and West Florida. I consider a conduct of this kind not only disrespectful, but insulting to this Government, and I have accordingly addressed on this day a Letter to the Marquis of which the enclosed (No. 2) is a copy. Since the possession of this Territory by the United States, the departure of Morales has several times been solicited. I considered him an unprincipled intriguing Man, and was persuaded that his views were Hostile to the Interest of the United States. His early departure was promised. He once assured me in person (in the Month of May last, that he would depart as soon as some necessary Business relating to the Kings Revenue was adjusted. I requested him to expedite that Business, and in the mean time promised him protection: and this I presume is the "assent" to which he alludes.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Jas. Madison
Secty. of State

Marquis of Casa Calvo to Gov. Claiborne

To the Governor of the Territory of Orleans!

Sir,

Having enquired into the certainty and foundation of the report which your Excellency had respecting the faculty lately given to the Pay Master General Don Juan Ventura Morales, I have received from him the following literal answer. "The Royal order which has been directed to me from the Superior Officer of the Revenue, does not alter in any thing the general disposition of the laws for the alienation of the Lands of the Crown, situated within the Kings Dominions; it only goes to remove the obstacles which have been laid by His Excellency Don Vincent Folch Commandant of West Florida, whereby he had given orders to the Governor of Baton Rouge, not to permit the survey of any Land without his orders, nor to give possession of those which have been sold, by the Intendancy since the 18th May 1803, for which end his Majesty resolves, to instruct the said Commandant of what had been disposed, on the Subject of the Royal orders of 22nd October 1798, 14th November 1799, and 29th May 1804, having consequently declared that I, Don Juan Morales ought to continue until their conclusion, the proceedings which might be pending relative to sales of Lands and other Business of that nature which might occur, and finishing by telling me that his majesty expected from my notorious zeal that I would endeavour to draw from that branch, all possible advantage in favor of the Royal Chest. It is therefore hoped that in this Matter, I will undertake to exercise my functions during my stay in this Territory, and I must observe that I do not intend to do more than what I have heretofore done (I may say with the assent of Gov. Claiborne) since the surrender was made to France (and un-

doubtedly to the United States) that is to fulfil my duties of Intendant of what remains to be done in this Province, relative to the Interests of the Kings Revenue and to give such orders as may be required in business of the like kind in West Florida in which the Sovereignty of the United States has not, and cannot receive any injury." I transmit to your Excellency in answer to the Question which you have been pleased to ask me under Date of the 3rd Instant.

May God Grant your Excellency a long life.

His Excellency (Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo
Gov. Claiborne

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans August 9th 1805

Sir,

I have had the Honour to receive your Excellencys Letter of the 8th instant, containing a Quotation from a Letter of Mr. Morales to you, wherein he declares his intention of continuing to execute within this Territory certain duties devolving on him as a Spanish Officer and to transmit from hence certain official orders to neighbouring Territories, now in the possession of the King of Spain.

I take this occasion again to remark to your Excellency, that within a time prescribed by Treaty the Spanish Authorities were to have been withdrawn from the Province of Louisiana. That time has long since expired, and I am at a loss to know by what Authority Mr, Morales now presumes to exercise within the limits of the United States his functions as Intendant. I must therefore entreat your Excellency to cause that Gentlemans office in this City to be closed, and to direct him if he has any Public Business to transact on the part of his Gov-

ernment to retire for that purpose within the Territories Still held by his Catholic Majesty. I consider Mr. Morales remaining here in the capacity of Intendant of East and West Florida, and discharging the duties thereof, not only as disrespectful, but a direct insult to this Government. Should it not be in your Excellency's power to cause my wishes (as now expressed) to be complied with, I will thank you for your answer as promptly as may be convenient, in order that I may (in that case) have recourse to such other measures as my duties shall enjoin.

I pray you to receive the assurance of my great respect and High Consideration.

His Excellency (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To the Judge of the County at Natchitoches.

New Orleans August 11th 1805

Sir,

The President of the United States having head that the French had formed a settlement and established a Military Post some considerable distance above Natchitoches, is desirous to obtain the Depositions of such Citizens as may have a knowledge of the facts. If therefore there are any Inhabitants of the County of Natchitoches or others in your vicinity who either resided at the said Settlement, or have had knowledge of its actual existence, you will oblige me by taking their information in writing and under the solemnity of an oath. In the Depositions which you may obtain it is adviseable to enter into detail and to mention the time the Settlement was formed and when abandoned. The strength of the Military Post, and the Period it was evacuated. It is reported that the

French had raised wheat at the settlement alluded to, erected a Mill and Manufactured Flour, and that the Mill Iron and Stones were removed. Upon all those Points information is desired and I will thank you to be diligent in your enquiries, and to transmit me the result as soon as may be convenient.

If you should learn of any other Posts established by the French in advance of the Post now occupied by the United States in lower Louisiana you will be good enough to communicate to me the particulars.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
The Judge of the County of Natchitoches

To the Secretary of War

New Orleans August 11th 1805

Sir,

I now do myself the Honor to reply more particularly to your Letter of the 1st of July, the receipt of which was acknowledged by the last Mail. The Settlement in the vicinity of Natchitoches to which you allude is by no means a considerable one, nor is it believed that at this time there is a regular Military Garrison nearer to Natchitoches than the Post of Nacogdoches. Captain Turner the late Civil Commandant at Natchitoches, apprized me Some time Since of the existence of a Small Settlement in a Creek called the Bayou Pierre about thirty Miles from Natchitoches, and informed me that the old Post called the Adies about seven leagues from Natchitoches was to be re-occupied by the Spaniards. This information was immediately transmitted by me to the Secretary of State, but it is probable it may not have reached him.

In receiving possession of the Ceded Territory, the American Commissioners would have been much relieved, had the limits thereof been precisely ascertained, but these being uncertain, the Commissioners thought it best to demand Louisiana as described in the Treaty; to accept all that Tract of Country which was offered by the French Commissary and to accompany such acceptance with a formal declaration in writing that no act of theirs (the Commissioners should be construed as renouncing, or in the least invalidating the claim of the United States under the Treaty of the 30th of April 1803 to other Territory still possessed by Spain. Having made this short explanation of the Conduct of the Commissioners and which I hope will be Satisfactory, it remains for me to inform you that in obedience to your instructions I have had a conference with the Marquis of Casa Calvo and requested a delivery of the Military Post which you mentioned. I said to him that information having been received of the existence of a considerable settlement and a small Military Post on Red River about twenty five or thirty Miles above Natchitoches I had to request that it might be evacuated by the Spanish Authorities and delivered to the United States. I trusted that this request would readily be acceded to since there could be no doubt but the Post and settlement in question were within the Limits of Louisiana, for it was a fact susceptible of the clearest proof that the French had formed settlements and established a Military Post on the Red River more than two Hundred Miles above Natchitoches and which were not abandoned until long after the Cession to Spain in 1762.

I added further that the Military Post in question was considered as an appendage of the Post of Natchitoches and ought to have been delivered with it. The Marquis paid the most respectful attention to my remarks and replied with calmness and much apparent can-

dor. He observed that Natchitoches was the Highest Military Post on the Red River, that had been considered as falling within the province of Louisiana. The small settlements of Bayou Piere and Adais which were not distant from Natchitoches were supposed to be within the Province of Taxus, and had been Subject to its Government. That the Limits of Louisiana Westwardly extended no further than where those of the Province of Taxus commenced; that such was the opinion of his Court and he added prescribed a guide for his conduct. Possibly said the Marquis in tracing the Line of demarkation between the United States and the Spanish Dominions it might be discovered that the Settlements of Bayou Pierre and Adais were within the Province of Louisiana, and if so they would be immediately delivered. He adde(d) that to his knowledge there was not a Spanish Soldier nearer to Natchitoches than those Stationed at Nacogdoches, and he had not understood there were more than five or six families on the Bayou Piere, and one or two at the Adais. to all which I replied that the matter must be determined by our two Governments who best understood the merits of the question in dispute. I have frequently heard of the Settlements of the French high up on the Waters of Red River and I presume their will be no difficulty in obtaining proof of their having raised wheat and erected a Mill two Hundred Miles above Natchitoches. I shall take immediate means to procure written testimony on those Points, and will advise you the result.

I have the Honor to be Sir with respect & Esteem

Your Hble. Sevt.

The Honble.
The Secty. at War

To James Madison

New Orleans Augt. 12th 1805

Sir,

I have this day received under cover of a Letter from Mr. Wagner dated the 8th of July, a Cypher for my secret correspondence with the Department of State.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secty. of State

To Col. Freeman

New Orleans August 14th 1805

Sir,

In the discharge of my duty as Governor of this Territory, I find it expedient to visit the several counties on the Mississippi as far as Concordia, and I propose to convey my baggage by water. You will oblige me therefore, if on this occasion you would furnish me with a Non-Commissioned Officer and four privates. I would wish the Non-Commissioned Officer to be a trusty careful man, since in addition to my Baggage, there will be committed to his care, the Laws of this Territory, and other Public Documents directed to the Civil Officers of the several counties.

If you have no objection, I would be pleased that the Sergeant who has for some time been on duty at the Government House should be selected, I have found him a faithful and intelligent Man.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Lieut. Colonel Freeman Commanding &c

To Lewis Kerr

New Orleans August 14th 1805

D. Sir,

As Governor of this Territory I am authorized by an act of the Legislature of the 4th of May entitled "An act for the Punishment of crimes and Misdemeanors" to cause to be drawn up in the English and French Languages, an exposition of certain crimes, and of the Rules of evidence, the mode of Trial the forms of writs, and Indictments, and other proceedings directed by that act.

Being fully persuaded that such a Work, if executed as contemplated by the Legislature, would greatly facilitate the operation of the existing Laws of the Territory I am solicitous that it should be undertaken, and speedily executed by some Gentleman Learned in the Law. Reposing great confidence in your professional Talents and Industry, and in expectation that from the present suspension of Business in our Courts your time is not wholly engaged, I propose to commit to you the Work.

With respect to the compensation I shall not make any specific proposition but you may rely on my disposition as a Public Agent to make a just remuneration for your services. With respect to the Work itself, I must express a Wish that it may be concise, and the Style as plain as the nature of the case will admit, and that it may be ready for the Press as speedily as possible.

Accept Sir Assurances of my great respect and Sincere Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Lewis Kerr Esq.

To the Marquis of Casa Calvo

New Orleans August 14th 1805

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 12th instant in answer to mine of the 9th has been received.

I hope you will do me the Justice to believe that I have no desire to do any injury to the Interest of His Catholic Majesty, except where I conceive the rights and Interest of my own country to be interfered with. Therefore altho the period, when agreeable to the Treaty the Spanish functionaries were to have withdrawn from the Ceded Territory has long since elapsed,[1] I nevertheless will consent that their Offices should continue open for such reasonable time as may be required for the adjustment of all unsettled Business, provided they confine themselves to objects in which the United States have no concern. But your Excellency must be aware of the existing doubts as to the limits of the Ceded Country, and of the Negociations now pending between our respective Courts for the arrangement of those differences. At the present juncture therefore I should consider myself wanting in duty if within the limits over which my authority extends I should Suffer a Foreign Officer to make any disposition of Lands, which tho in the possession of Spain, are claimed by the United States, from the Tenor of your Letter of the 8th Instant, and that of Mr. Morales, which it recites, it appears to me, that he has received Authority from his King, and fully intends to proceed to the completion of Sales which he some time since made of the Lands in the Floridas West of the River Perdido, and even to sell more within the same limits. It is therefore Sir, that I have considered Mr. Morales's residence

[1] The Spanish troops were to leave Louisiana within three months from the transfer.

here as an injury to the Interests of the United States and an insult to my Government. And I have to request your Excellency that Mr. Morales may give me an assurance in writing that during his residence in this City no further dispositions of Lands West of the Perdido shall be made by him, as well in relation to those Lands said already to be sold as those which remain unsold. These are the only terms on which I can permit the longer continuance in this Territory of the Paymaster General and Intendant pro tem under the Government of His Catholic Majesty.

Permit me to assure your Excellency of the satisfaction I have had in the various communications which have occasionally passed between us. There is a frankness and sincerity in your Letters, which entitle them to High consideration on my part. Therefore altho I have complained and not without cause of the great delay of of the Spanish Authorities in this Territory beyond the time prescribed for their departure, I have nevertheless been disposed to make great allowance for the difficulties which you have suggested, and am fully persuaded of the disposition of your Excellency to execute as far as may depend upon your agency, with promptitude and in good faith the Stipulations of the Treaty.

I renew to you Excellency the assurances of my respectful consideration.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Col. Freeman

New Orleans August 15th 1805

Sir,

Being aware of the weakness of the Troops and supposing that you could illy spare even a small Detachment, I should not have made the request of yesterday, had I

not been compelled to take with me a Barge as the best mode of conveying to the Several Counties near one Hundred Volumes of the Laws of the United States, and as many setts of the Laws of this Territory. I presume four Men will be a sufficient number, since it is not wished that they should proceed with much expedition.

I have copies of all the Laws of Congress except those of the last Session, a Copy of the Acts passed at the Session preceeding the last, the orderly will deliver you which I presume you have not hitherto received.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your obdt. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Lieut. Colonel Freeman Commanding &c

To James Madison

New Orleans August 16th 1805

Sir,

The enclosure No. 1 is the last Letter received from the Marquis on the Subject of Mr. Morales's continuance in this Territory and No. 2 a copy of my answer. I do not know how far the part I have acted on this occasion will be approved of by the President. But I pray you to be assured that my conduct is directed by my best Judgment, and a Sincere disposition to protect the Interest of my Country.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

To James Madison.

New Orleans August 16th 1805

Sir,

A short time previous to the transfer of Louisiana to the United States Governor Folch having doubted the Authority of Morales to sell Lands in West Florida, without his Folch's assent, would not permit the surveyor to proceed. The consequence was that Titles for Vast Tracts of Lands which had been entered remained incomplete. The Quantity of Land in this situation and the names of the Purchasers you find in the Enclosed Paper, which I have obtained from a confidential source. I have understood that Mr. Daniel Clark and other early adventurers obtained complete Titles.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your obdt. Sevt.

The Honble. (Signed) William C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

Marquis of Casa Calvo to Gov. Claiborne.

To the Governor of the Territory of Orleans

Sir,

I acquainted Don Juan Morales Paymaster General of the Army and Intendant *pro tempore,* under the Government of His Catholic Majesty, with the demand contained in your Excellencys favor dated 9th Instant, in answer to which, that Officer observed to me, that "he is persuaded that Great prejudice for the Spanish Government, may be the consequence of such measures, and requested me in my public Capacity, to represent to your Excellency what I would deem proper, in order that the Kings Interests may not be wronged, and that Your Ex-

cellencys determination may be stayed, untill he shall be able to execute the Order entrusted to him."

Although Your Excellency, since the Month of October of the last Year, required the Quick removal of the Spanish Authorities from this Province, as the retrocession was already effected and notwithstanding my imperative orders repeatedly sent him since that time, for the same purpose, it has been impossible to settle and finish the different business which remained pending, in consequence of the sudden change of Government, in a Country whither the Posts are placed at such a distance, as experience has shewn, with respect to the Agents and Troops who evacuated the upper Louisiana, and did only arrive here during the Month of March last. in the mean time the delay should not be ascribed less, to the deficiency of the necessary Money on our part, and indeed the residence of Don Juan Ventura Morales in this place, can by no means, be construed as a mark of disrespect and so far less as a design to insult to the Government of the United States, since it has been only necessitated for the purpose of performing the special duties of his Office, when on the contrary by leaving unsettled the business which he has still to transact, the greatest prejudice for His Majestys Interests, must be the result.

I do not mean by these observations, to pretend that the Pay Master General has any power to exercise a public Authority in a foreign Country, since he has actually ceased to possess any, from the Moment of the retrocession.[1] I shall therefore make my best endeavours, to remove any Obstacle which might oppose to the shutting of the Office and speedy termination of the pending business, and thus at once, accomplish the wishes of Your Excellency, without prejudicing the Interests of the King

[1] Casa Calvo and Morales were unfriendly, and there was no agreement between them.

my Master, or altering the good understanding which always prevailed in the intercourse of our respective duties and Stations.

May God grant Your Excellency a long life.

New Orleans 12 August 1805

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

Gov. Claiborne to Albert Gallatin.

New Orleans August 17, 1805

To Albert Gallatin Esqr)
Secretary of the Treasury)
Sir,

I have this day drawn upon you for Seven Hundred dollars, payable at five days sight, to William Brown or Order. This Bill has been Drawn, to enable me to meet some of the Contingent expences of this Government, and I now enclose Vouchers for Six Hundred and fifty five dollars five and a half cents.

With respect to the sum paid Mr. Kennedy it may be proper to remark, that his assistance in the Office was indispensible; that his whole time was employed, and the compensation allowed him, is not (in my Opinion) more than a Just compensation for his faithful services.

I am Sir Very Respectfully

Your obdt. Servt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Marquis of Casa Calvo to Gov. Claiborne.

New Orleans Augt. 17, 1805

T. W. C. C. Claiborne)
Governor of the Territory of Orleans)
Sir,

The Pay Master General Don Juan Ventura Morales, to whom I have litterally transcribed and sent the last resolution of Yr. Excy. of the 14th instant answers me

that if your Excy. does not consent to let the proceedings respecting the land surveyed and sold be concluded by the collection of their Amount, which sums belong to his C. M. it will be impossible for him to adopt the prudent measure which I have pointed out to him, without exposing the Interests of the King to suffer; adding that the business, which are to be conducted here, requires his presence, that they are depending on events, which it is not in his power to accelerate, and that even after these will have happened, some time yet will be necessary to put a final end to them. The said Paymaster General finds "that the condition on which Your Excy. says you can permit him to reside here longer is injurious to his Character, and contrary to all rights, and he concludes by hoping that I will insist on claiming ing that no prejudice may be caused to the rights of the King, by any hindrance of the faculties in which he has been pleased to confer on him, by his late resolution of the 20th February last, and that his Authority may be left unshackled in as much as respects the duties of his Office in that line, which is so arbitrarily pretended to be obstructed."

In consequence of this, and as I have endeavour'd from the beginning, to explain myself with that Officer in a precise, clear and open manner, I can do no less than Relating to your Excy. literally what I proposed to him; it was as follows:

"It is prudent to take such measures as may conciliate the Interests of His Mty., with a good understanding with this Government & I persuade myself that it can be easily done, if efficacious steps are taken to conclude what is pending, so as to do here what cannot be finished elsewhere, and reserve to be done in the Neighbouring Dominions of His Mty., whatever is not within the above Case. I further told him that with respect to the Lands sold in Anterior times, I would express to

Your Excy. my Opinion, which is, that those lands having been alienated *in due time,* no less can be done that to proceed to the collection of the sums due for the same, since they are the property of the King our Master."

I make no doubt that Your Excy. will condescend to let it be so effected for what respects the interest of the treasury of the King my Master, and in whatever else is pretended by the said Pay Master General, heretofore exercising functions of Intendent, Your Excy. will adopt such measures as you think best to conciliate the interests of Spain with those of the United States, so that neither may suffer, and the Good understanding which prevails between our respective Courts may subsist without interruption, as well as that, which we have preserved among ourselves, and which, I doubt not, will continue, when I consider the sincerity of the expressions contained in Your Excys. last communication.

May God grant Your Excy. a long life.

(Signed) The Marquis of Casa Calvo

Gov. Claiborne to The Marquis of Casa Calvo.

New Orleans
August 17th 1805

To His Excellency)
The Marquis of Casa Calvo)
Sir,

Your letter of the Morning has been received. The conditions in my communication of the 14th Instant, are the only terms on which I will consent that the Pay Master General of the Army, and Intendant Protempore under the Government of Spain should continue his residence in this Territory. It is of no consequence to me, what Opinion Mr. Morales may have formed of these Conditions. I deemed it a duty to prescribe them, and

if they are not acceded to, I shall require a compliance with the Treaty and demand his early departure.

I know not what Faculties were confer'ed on Mr. Morales by the Royal decree of the 20 Febry. last; but, this much I do Know, that His Catholic Majesty could not Authorize Mr. Morales to exercise any Official Acts within the Territories of the *United States,* or to open a land Office within *their limits.* If the Pay Master General of the Spanish Army is solicitious that his Authority should remain unshackled, why does he not retire to the dominions of His Catholic Majesty, and depart from a Territory within which he has no right to continue his Residence, much less to exercise Official functions. I again repeat Sir my unwillingness unnecessarily to injure the Interest of His Catholic Majesty, or to subject his Officers to any inconvenience. I do not object to Mr. Morales adjusting the Accounts of his department, or collecting the Monies due to his Government; But I must protest against a *foreign Officer* opening an Office in this city for the Sales of Lands, or *his* issuing from hence Titles for Lands heretofore contracted for under the Government of Spain: should Mr, Morales therefore still persist I shall require his immediate departure, and shall expect from Your Excellency, in Your Character as commissioner, the fulfilment of the Treaty in this particular. The Customary Passports shall be prepared, and I will cheerfully afford Your Excellency such assistance as you may want, and which may conduce to the speedy and comfortable conveyance of the Pay Master General of the Spanish Army to some Post within the dominions of His Catholic Majesty.

I offer Your Excellency the Assurances of my great Respect & High Consideration

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To the Honble. James Madison) New Orleans
Secretary of State) Augt. 17th 1805

Sir,

By the enclosed, you will perceive that the Correspondence between the Marquis of Casa Calvo and myself concerning Morales, has not yet closed.

If Morales should not abandon his project relative to the sales of Florida lands, I shall not cease to urge his immediate departure from the Territory.

The Climate here is now extremely warm, and I fear the City will soon become sickly;— With a view to my Health, and to assist personally in organizing the Militia, I have contemplated a Journey to several of the interior Counties; but the pending correspondence with the Marquis, has hitherto delayed my Departure.

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Hble, Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Colon. Costant Freeman (New Orleans
(August 18, 1805

Gov. Claiborne to Col. Freeman.

Sir,

The Mayor of the City, under an impression that the Stagnant water in the ditches Around Forts St. Charles and St. Louis are injurious to the Health of the Inhabitants, is desirous to have them drained;— I have therefore to request that You would permit it to be done in such manner, as not to injure the Fortifications.

I have also to request, that the detachment of Regular Troops now at the Hotel de Ville, might be withdrawn and Quartered in the Barracks; the Hotel de Ville is the property of the City, and the Apartments now occupied by Our Troops, the Mayor informs me, is very much wanted for the accomodation of a City Watch (by

Night) which the Town Council has thought proper to raise, and to place under the direction of the Mayor.

When it is convenient for you to remove from Your present Quarters, you will much oblige me, if You would deliver the Key to the Honble. Judge Hall. But I wish not that you should subject Yourself to any Inconvenience by an early Removal, since it is not expected, that the district Court (for whose accomodation the Building is intended) will be in Session for several Weeks.

I have the Honor to be Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Blaze Cenas Esqr. New Orleans Augt. 18th 1805
Post Master
Sir,

The necessity there is to provide a conveyance for the Mail across the Lakes, will (in my opinion) Justify your acting in the business without Instructions from the Post Master General. I therefore advise that you embrace the cheapest terms offered, the contract to continue in force for One Year, unless sooner disapproved of by the Post Master General, to whom you should without delay communicate your proceedings.

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To John Watkins Esqr.) August 18th 1805
Mayor) New Orleans
Sir,

I have received your letter of Yesterday. A Watch by Night I deem essential to the safety of our property,

and I am persuaded that under Your direction the establishment contemplated will prove a public benefit.

I have requested Colonel Freeman to cause the detachment of regular Troops on duty at the Hotel de Ville to be withdrawn, and I presume an evacuation will take place in the course of the day.

In draining the ditches in the vicinity of Forts St. Charles and St. Louis you will be good enough to consult with Colonel Freeman in order that the work may be done under his (the Colonels) directions in such manner as not to injure the Fortifications.

I contemplate leaving this City on a Visit to Concordia on to morrow and shall be absent several Weeks. I feel Happy in the reflection that the City Authorities are now completely organized, and there is every Reason to Hope that safety and good order will continue. During my absence I must ask the favor of You to Honor me with your correspondence, and to Keep me advised of every occurrence in which the Territory or the City may be interested.

Accept assurances of my great Respect and sincere Esteem

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

New Orleans
Augt. 20th 1805

Sir,

Mr. Morales has at length acceeded to my wishes and given me an assurance in writing that "during his residence in this Territory no further Sales of Lands west of the Perdido, shall be made by him, nor will he complete the Titles for Lands heretofore contracted for under the Spanish Government and which lie within the

limits aforesaid". A Copy of the Instrument signed by Mr. Morales and of the Marquis's last letter to me upon this subject, shall be transmitted to you by the next Mail.

The affairs of the Territory being now in a situation to admit of my absence from this City, for a short time, I propose seting out this afternoon on a Journey to the Several Counties. In making this excursion I have two *objects* in view; the *one* to benefit my Health which is much impaired, and the other to assist personally in organizing the Militia. During my absence, I shall receive regular communications from New Orleans, and if my presence in the City should be necessary, I shall hasten my return.

I have also made arrangements for the immediate conveyance to me of your despatches, and you may rely on my faithful attention to any Instructions which may be given me.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To the Marquis)
of Casa Calvo)

Near New Orleans Agt. 21, 1805

Sir,

Your Excellencys Letter of Yesterday together with its enclosure have been duly received.

The *assurance* given me in writing by Mr. Morales, that he "will not during his residence in this Territory sell any Lands West of the Perdido or complete the Titles for Lands heretofore sold under the Spanish Government", is satisfactory, and I persuade myself *it* will be strictly adhered to.

So far from perceiving any Just grounds of exception on the part of the paymaster General of the Spanish

Army, to the Conditions on which his longer residence in this Territory is permitted, I shall be disappointed if the deportment of that Officer on this occasion, is not disapproved of by His Catholic Majesty;– An August Sovereign who Knows the respect due the United States of America, and cannot but highly appreciate a good understanding between the two Nations.

Accept Sir Assurances of my Great Respect and sincere Esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

County of Acadia Sixty Miles from
New Orleans Augt. 23rd 1805.

Sir,

In the course of my Journey I have found the Citizens much disturbed by a report of the retrocession to Spain of the Country West of the Mississippi.[1] I have positively asserted, that the Report was groundless, but it had acquired such general currency that many good disposed Citizens cannot be made to think their connexion with the United States is permanent.

On my arrival at Concordia (opposite Natchez) where I shall remain a few days, it is my intention again to write you. In the mean time I cannot deny myself the pleasure of informing you that the most perfect good Order prevails thro' out my Government and the various subordinate Civil Officers vie with each other in a faithful discharge of their duties.

I am fearful that my best efforts to render the Militia an efficient force will for some time be unavailing;–

[1] This report was being industriously circulated by Spanish authorities.

the various descriptions of Inhabitants, the differences in Language, and the aversion of the independent Farmers to serve in the Militia, unless in the higher grades are not my only difficulties.

To meet the convenience of the Citizens, and to Render them Justice, I am inclined to think that some amendment to the late law of Congress relative to the Titles for Lands in this Territory, will be found adviseable, and upon this subject I shall hereafter do myself the Honor to write you fully. I will at this time, only observe that some Indulgence ought to be given to the owners of Land on the Mississippi, and particularly that they should be secured in a right of preemption to a certain Quantity of Acres, lying in the rear of their present possessions.

Under the Government of Spain it was customary to grant from 6 to 20 Acres in front and 40 in depth;– The Cypress Swamps which approach near the Lands now in cultivation, were seldom included in the grant; but from time immorial, the Timber has been at the disposition of the Inhabitant who owned the Land in front, and he was considered by the Spanish Government as possessing an equitable right to the Swamp. If Congress should not make some special provision on this point, much discontent will arise;– large Cypress Swamps which at present limit the Valuable Farms on the Mississippi will be monopolized by speculators and the present Settler greatly injured.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully
Your hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

120 Miles from New Orleans
August 26, 1805

Sir,

The report of the retrocession to Spain of the Country West of the Mississippi had also prevailed in New Orleans; The Evening previous to my departure, being on a visit to the Marquis of Casa Calvo, I asked him if he Knew upon what authority, the Report was circulated. He answered in the negative, and added that he had understood the negociation was suspended, and that Mr. Munroe had left Madrid;- He further said, that the Minister of State (Cervalles) had informed him (the Marquis) that the desire of the Court of Spain was, to make the *Mississippi River the Boundary,* and in time it was expected that, *that Object* would be attained. The Marquis delivered himself in the French Language; from my imperfect Knowledge of French, it is probable I may have misunderstood some of his expression, but I am sure I have given you the substance of what he said.

The prospects of a *retrocession* of the West bank of the Mississippi is now, and has always been the theme of the Spanish Officers who remain in this Territory, and many citizens seem to view *it* as an event likely to happen;– An impression which I greatly regret, since it tends to lessen their Confidence in the American Government, and to cherish a Spanish party Among us. Next therefore to a final adjustment of limits with the Spanish Government, I most desire to see every Spanish Officer removed from the Ceded Territory. There certainly must be a power some where vested to cause to be executed the clause in the Treaty, which directs the Spanish Forces to be withdrawn (within three Months) from the Ceded Territory, and I should indeed be pleased to have it hinted to me, that in my Character as *commissioner* or

Governor, I could on this occasion, take (if necessary) cumpulsory Measures.

I have the Honor to be Sir,
very Respectfully Yo. hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

P. S. My last letter to you was dated the 23 Instant

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

Territory of Orleans 160 Miles From New Orleans August 27th 1805

Sir,

I passed over to Batton Rouge on Yesterday, and partook of the Hospitality of Governor Grandpre; I was introduced into a Fort, where the Governor has resided for several Months, from an apprehension that Kemper and his associates still meditate an Attack against his Government.

The Fort of Baton Rouge has lately been repaired; but the works are ill constructed, and could not be defended from assault by a less number than One Thousand Men; The Scite also has been injudiciously selected, for it is commanded by Ground not more than a Quarter of a Mile distant.

I will endeavour to reach Fort Adams on Tomorrow, from whence I shall pass by the way of Natchez to Concordia, where I propose remaining for two Weeks, unless my earlier return to New Orleans, should be found expedient.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

P. S. The Fort at Batton Rouge, I am informed is Garrisoned by One Hundred and twenty Men.

Signed W C C C

John Graham Esqr.)
Secretary of the Territory of Orleans)

Fort Adams
August 29th 1805

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor, to inform you we this day arrived at Fort Adams, after suffering considerably from bad Roads, And almost continual Rain.

The Governor is incommoded by a slight fever occasioned by fatigue, but is determined to proceed to morrow, on his way to Concordia by water.

I have the Honor to be With Great Respect
Your Obdt. Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Henry Hopkins

To William Wilson Esqr.

(Natchez
(September 9, 1805

Sir,

I received late on last evening your Letter of the 5th Instant. The one which you forwarded by Mr. Young has miscarried.

So far as I am enabled to Judge from the particulars of Kemper's case as reported to me Your Conduct on the occasion was marked with propriety and I cannot but admire the dicision and firmness which were displayed.

In relation to the prisoners in your custody you will be pleased to conform to the wishes expressed in Governor Williams communication to You;— The outrages have been committed within the Mississippi Territory and I am desirous that the offenders should be transfered to the Civil Authorities thereof.

I persuade myself that the thretened attack on your

Garrison will not be hazarded but in such an event I have no doubt but you will make a Gallant resistance and that the Result will be such as you could wish.

Captain Sparks having already sent you a re-enforcement superceeds the necessity of any requisition from me on that subject;— But in the event of Hostilities against the Garrison of Point Coupee the Militia of the settlement ought to be called in to your assistance and I have no doubt but that Colonel LeBlong (to whom you will shew this Letter) would on this occasion act the part of a Soldier and an American.

I would with pleasure repair with haste to Point Coupee but my state of Health does not permit,— I am just recovering from a violent attack;— A Fever of which I was sick for Eight Days has indeed left me but I am so debilitated that I could not possibly perform a Journey to Point Coupee.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

P. S. On the receipt of this Letter You will be pleased to inform me the aspect of Affairs in your Quarter;— In four or five days I hope to acquire some strength and if then my presence at Point Coupee should be adviseable I will hasten to be with you. You will send your communications by Express— the Expence will be paid by me.

(Signed) W. C. C. C.

To Doctor Sibley (Concordia
(September 11th 1805

Sir,

In a letter from the Secretary of War of the 19th July he informs me that he had requested you to transmit to me the original Copy of the Manuscript writing, relating to the limits of Louisiana, and which you had in

possession. I have only to request, that you would commit the Manuscript to some safe person, or if you think it adviseable that you forward it by express.[1] I am the more particular on this point since the Government seem to view this Document as important, and of course I am desirous that no accident should befall it.

I have had a severe Illness since my departure from the City; but my Health is now returning, and I propose proceeding to New Orleans about the last of the present Month. I had had in contemplation to visit Natchitoches, but I am now so enfeebled that the Journey must for the present be declined.

Accept my best wishes!

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Gov. Claiborne to James Madison.

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

Territory of Orleans
Concordia
September 11, 1805

Sir,

Since my letter of the 27th Ultimo, I have experienced a very severe Indisposition. For seven Days my Fevers were incessant, and my death was esteemed by myself and physicians a probable event. But it has pleased Almighty God, still to prolong my life, and I feel now as if my Health would soon be restored. I had had in contemplation to visit the posts of Ouachitia and Natchitoches, but my strength is so enfeebled from my late Attack that I must thro' necessity decline the Journey.

It is my intention to return to New Orleans about the last of this Month; In the mean time I am persuaded, the public Interest will sustain no injury by my absence:

[1] Bernard de la Harpe.

— The care of the City is Committed to the Mayor Doctor John Watkins, a very vigilant and prudent Officer, and there is no doubt but he will discharge With fidelity the trust confided to him.

I presume Governor Williams's communications will inform you the particulars of the Arrest of the Kempers;— The manner of the Arrest, was certainly highly exceptionable, and it is not probable, that the Spanish Authorities will attempt to Justify the measure.

At the date of my last letter, every thing was Quiet at New Orleans; There had been some little alarm in consequence of an attempt made by a Frenchman to excite the Negros to Insurrection.[1] But the Frenchman was arrested and the uneasiness had subsided.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr.)
Secretary of War)

Concordia opposite Natchez
Sept. 11th 1805

Sir,

Your letter of the 19th July was duly Received, and of which you would sooner have been advised, had I not been prevented by a severe Indisposition, of which I am just now recovering.

The Manuscript writing in the possession of Doctor Sibley, is certainly an important document. I shall hasten to write the Doctor on the subject, and so soon as the Original Copy is secured by me, it shall be forwarded to the President by some person, on whom I can place entire confidence.

[1] Gayorsé says that the Frenchman preached the equality of man to the slaves.

The Arrest of the Kempers on the Territory of the United States (of which Governor Williams I presume has advised you) excited much sensibility in this Quarter, and their recapture has afforded satisfaction.[1] I have not yet heard from the Spanish Authorities upon the subject; But I presume it will furnish grounds for a long Correspondence.

I shall return to New Orleans about the last of the present Month.

I pray You Sir to accept assurances of my great Respect and sincere Esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

Concordia, Sept. 11th 1805

Sir,

I now have the Honnor to enclose you, a Copy of the Assurance given me in writing by Mr. Morales that he would not, during his residence in this Territory make any disposition of lands lying West of the Perdido.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Albert Gallatin Esqr.)
Secretary of the Treasury)

Territory of Orleans
Concordia
September 13th, 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose you an estimate of the Expences of the Government of Orleans for the Year 1806, including a sum necessary to make good a difficiency

[1] See Vol. III, p. 40, Fortier's Louisiana.

in the appropriation for the Contingent expences of the Executive Department for the year 1805.

In making this estimate I have had a due regard to economy and I shall endeavor to make my expenditures fall within the Appropriation solicited.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

Estimate of the expences of the Government of the Territory of Orleans.

Executive Department

1st Salaries:—

Governor	5000.	
Secretary	2000.	
		7000.

2nd Contingencies:—

For Clerk hire	1000.	
Stationary fuel and printing	450.	
A Messenger or Office Keeper	350.	
Express Hire	700.	
An Indian Interpreter	350.	
		2800.

Judiciary:—

1 District Judge	2000.	
3 Territorial do @ 2000	6000.	
1 Attorney	600.	
1 Marshall	200.	
		8800.
	Drs.	18650.

This Sum to make good a difficiency in the appropriation for contingent expences of the Executive department for the Year 1805.—	850.
Total Drs.	19500.

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

Concordia Sept. 25th 1805

Sir,

I am still in a state of convalescence, but continue very feeble. so soon as I feel enabled to undertake the Journey, I shall return to New Orleans; In the mean time, I do not suppose, that my absence from that City will prove injurious to the Public Interest. The inclosed letter from Mr. Graham, will present you with the latest intelligence; The conduct of the Spaniards in this Quarter, evidence a settled Hostility to the United States, and I am inclined to think, that such conduct is encouraged by the Court of Spain. I am anxious to Know the Result of the late Negotiation;— I have not been Honored with an official letter from you, for two Months past, and I very much fear Your Communications have Miscarried.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

Concordia Sept. 27, 1805

Sir,

In consequence of a letter I received on last Evening from Mr. Graham, of which the enclosed is a Copy, I shall set out on this Morning for New Orleans.

I cannot conjecture the unpleasant *Rumours* alluded to by Mr. Graham, but persuade myself they will not prove of serious importance.

I am indeed illy fitted for a Journey; my Health is far from being restored, and I fear the fatigue to which I shall be exposed may occasion a Relapse;— But I shall nevertheless proceed and will be in New Orleans as soon as posable.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.
Secretary of State

New Orleans Oct. 5, 1805

Sir,

I arrived here on last evening, and altho' my Health is much improved since my departure from Natchez, I am nevertheless far from being well.

The unpleasant Reports alluded to by Mr. Graham in his letter of the 22nd Ultimo (a Copy of which I forwarded you from Natchez) related to the Manaces of Our Spanish Neighbours; the warlike preparations at Havanna, and the apparent willingness of a portion of the Inhabitants of this place, to support Spanish Measures; — I am happy however to inform you, that I have found every thing tranquil nor do I apprehend any event in which the people of the Territory would take an Agency which would subject the Government to serious embarrassment. A Rupture between the United States and Spain, is esteemed here highly probable and has excited much anxiety; I have however ventured an opinion, that war was not likely to insue, and I delivered this opinion

with the more confidence, since no communications from the department of State, have been received by me, which give the slightest intimation of a prospect of Hostilities.

I am Sir &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Doctor John Sibley

New Orleans Octr. 8, 1805

Sir,

On my return to this City on the 4th Instant I was handed your several letters by Mr. Abrams, and to which I shall reply by the ensuing Mail.

During my visit to Natchez, I was afflicted with a violent Fever; its effects are not removed, but I feel as if my Health would soon be reinstated.

With respect to the Charge for copying the French Manuscript, I shall feel no hesitation in paying it to your order, provided you state an Account (in triplicate) against the United States, and write a receipt at Bottom;— I wish this form observed, since it may be necessary to the future adjustment of my own accounts at the Treasury Department.

You no doubt, have seen many News paper Statements which indecate a speedy Rupture between the United States and Spain, and must feel on the occasion all that painful anxiety, which a Love of Country enspires;— I wish therefore it was in my power to give you some satisfactory information on this subject;— But I remain uninformed (officially) of the event of the negociation, and I shall not accredit the account of a failure, until it shall be communicated to me by the Secretary of State.

I am Sir, very Respectfully &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr.)
Secretary of War)

New Orleans Octr. 10, 1805

Dear Sir,

I have been Honored with the receipt of Your Letter of the 10th of July. It is very possible I may have misconstrued the Secretary of States Letter and that my Authority to draw upon you was not Complete;— I shall however for the future observe the utmost caution in drawing Bills for in addition to the Mortification which a Protest occasions the Drawer, it is generally accompanied with serious Inconvenience.

Every thing is tranquil in this Quarter;— We have had here an uncommon Healthy Season; But nevertheless many Americans have passed thro' dangerous Fevers.

I learn thr'o the Medium of the Newspapers, that Peace has been made with Tripoli and on which event I offer you my warmest congratulations. I am solicitous to hear the present aspect of affairs between the United States and Spain. If I was to credit Newspaper Statements, I should suppose a War would speedily ensue, but I hope that the President will be enabled to maintain an Honorable Peace, and to enlarge the Limits of the United States.

Accept assurances of my Great Respect & sincere Esteem!

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson Esqr.)
President of the U. States)

New Orleans
October 10th 1805

Dear Sir,

I had the Honor a few days since, to receive Your letter of the 10th of July, and its contents shall engage

my early attention— by the ensuing Mail therefore, I shall forward you a List of the Buildings (the property of the U. States) in this City, together with my opinion as to the best distribution to be made of them.

I learn thr'o the medium of the News papers that Peace Honorable to the United States has been effected with Tripoli; but of the particulars I am not informed. I offer You my warmest congratulations on an event, which has restored to Liberty and to their Country, so many of Our Brothers, and which in the pre-Crisis of our Affairs with Spain, cannot but be considered of high Importance.

I am Dr. Sir,
With Great Respect
Your faithful friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Robert Williams Esqr.)
Governor of the Mississippi Territory)

New Orleans Oct. 10, 1805

My Dear Sir,

The Mail of this Morning brought me Your letter of the 1st Instant, together with its enclosures. Your reply to Grand Prie, is just such a one as he merited, and is well calculated to draw from him, a candid explanation of a conduct of which, you have so much cause to complain. At the period of my departure from Natchez, I had intended to call at Batton Rouge; But at Point Coupee, I received such information as to convince me, that Grand Prie had countenanced the Outrage Committed in Your Territory,[1] and therefore I declined paying

[1] The arrest of the Kampers in Mississippi Territory by the Spanish authorities.

my Respects to an Officer, who could be concerned in so disgraceful a transaction.

The unpleasant Rumours to which Mr. Graham alluded (and which hastened my departure from Natchez) related to the Manaces of Our Spanish Neighbours;—the Warlike preparations at the Havannah, and the Apparent willingness of many of the Inhabitants of this place, to support Spanish Measures; But I have the pleasure to inform You that I found on my arrival every thing tranquil nor is there at this time ground to apprehend any domestic event that would subject our Government to serious inconvenience.

I believe it true; that our Negotiations with Spain has failed, and that Mr. Monroe had left Madrid. I learn that there were four propositions, submitted by our Envoy. The first was, "That Spain should make Compensation for the Spoliations committed on American Commerce by her Armed Vessels and Privateers." To this, the Spanish Court had no objections. The second—"That Spain should make compensation, for Spoliations committed by the French Privateers fitted out in Spanish Ports." To this, the Spanish Court objected, and said that the French Government had already made the United States compensation, for Spoliations committed by vessels Sailing under the Flag of France.

The third—"That Spain should make remuneration for the losses sustained by the American Citizens, in consequence of the occlusion of the port of New Orleans." This was also objected to, and it was answered, that the Occlusion was only for a short time, that if the United States had sustained injury, Spain had also, for the occlusion was not rigorously adheared to; much American Commerce was permitted, and the customary duties not exacted.

The fourth and last proposition was, that Spain should acknowledge the Ceded Territory to be Bounded

on the East by the River Perdido, and on the West by the Rio Bravo, and that in exchange for East Florida, the United States would relinquish their Claim to the Land West of the River Callorado. This proposition was also not acceded to—and Mr. Monroe requested his Passports.

I have given You the above details on the Authority of the Marquis of Cassa Calvo, from I received them.

I was favored with fine Weather during my passage down the River, and found myself regaining Health, But since my Arrival I have been very unwell; on Yesterday I took the Medecine, and today I feel much better. It remains for me to wish You a prosperous, and happy, administration, and to intreat You not to permit Yourself to be disturbed by the Intrigues, and Calumnies of those discontented and unprincipled Men, whose only Object is to give You uneasiness.

Remember me affectionately to my Acquaintance in Washington, and accept the best Wishes of Your sincere friend.

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To Capt. Edwd. D. Turner

New Orleans
October. 14, 1805

Sir,

The Marquis of Casa Calvo leaves this City Tomorrow, and contemplates visiting the Old Post of *Adais* with a view of ascertaining the latitude of that place, and to make examination for some stone posts which are said to be deposited somewhere in its *vicinity, and immediately on a line* which formerly divided the French and Spanish possessions west of the Mississippi. When You shall be advised by the Marquis of his arrival at or near

Adais, (Information which he has promised to give You) You will join him with al convenient despatch, and comply as far as may be in Your power with the following instructions.

1st You will particularly Note the Longitude & Latitude of *Adais,* and ascertain at what time the Garrison *there* was established; the period it was evacuated, and whether objections to the Spaniards maintaining *that post,* had at any time been made by the French!

2nd If these Stone posts which are spoken of should be found, You will ascertain *when* and by *whome* they were deposited, and *with what object.*

3rd. If You should learn that a *line* of demarkation had in part been determined on, You will enquire how far the same had been extended; why *it* was not completed, and the names or names' of the Commissioners or Agents employed, and under whose Instructions the Acted.

4th You will make enquiries as to any Settlement made no the Red River in advance of the Settlements now in possession of the United States, and obtain on Oath and in Writing the Statements of such persons, as may have any personal Knowledge thereof!

5th If You should acquire any other information not coming within the above Instructions, and which You suppose may be useful to the Government, it is expected that the same will be communicated!

You will probably not be employed on this Mission more than Eight or ten days, and of course Your personal Expences will be inconsiderable, but You will Keep an account thereof, and the Amount shall be remunerated You. Colonel Freeman has promised to give *on this occasion,* to the officer commanding at Natchitoches the Necessary orders, and in the Event that from indisposition or other Good Cause You should be unable to perform the Duty herein required, this Letter will be de-

livered to such *other Gentleman* as may be selected by the commanding officer and *will regulate his Conduct.*

I am Sir, very Respectfully &c
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

New Orleans
October 14, 1805

Sir,

The Marquis of Cas Calvo has communicated to me his intention of passing by way of the Bayou La Forche and the River Tach to the Sea and from thence to the Mouth of the Sabine which River he proposes to Ascend as far as the old post of Adais. In making this excursion the Marquis states that he has two objects in View; — the One to enjoy the Amusement of Hunting the other to acquire some geographical Knowledge of the Country and in particular to ascertain the Latitude of the post of Adais and to make an examination for some Stone posts which are said to have been deposited some where in its Vicinity and immediately on the Line which was formerly established between the French & Spanish Possessionss West of the Mississippi. I expressed to the Marquis a wish that on his arrival at the post of Adais he should be joined by an American Officer from the Garrison of Natchitoches who should witness his proceedings and make report to me thereof. To which proposition the Marquis having assented Capt. Turner who speaks the French Language has been selected to accompany

him. A Copy of my Instructions to Captain Turner is herewith enclosed for Your perusal.

I have the Honor to be Sir,
With Great Respect
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

P. S. I shall take measures to ascertain the General Deportment of the Marquis on his excursion.

(Signed) W. C. C. C.

To General James Wilkinson (New Orleans
(October 10, 1805

Dear Sir,

I am indebted to You for an acquaintance with Lieut. Mulford, and am much obliged by Your friendly present of a Barrell of Apples.

I wish You a prosperous administration and sincerely hope that You may continue in the enjoyment of private and domestic Happiness.

You have no doubt learned the political difficulties I have had to encounter, and the havy Domestic Calamities, which it has pleased Almighty God to bring upon me;— But on this subject I cannot enlarge. My feelings will only permit me to say, that my fortitude enables me to bear up against all the Calumnies the persecutions of Man, and as to the misfortunes flowing from the will of providence, it is a duty to meet them with resignation.

I am indeed under some apprehension that our dispute with Spain will not be amicably adjusted; It would seem as if our possessions west of the Mississippi were objects of Jealousy to the Dons, and that the Great River is the Line which the Spanish Court is most desirous to establish. To this proposition our Govern-

ment I presume never can or will consent. But the final result of the Negotiation will probably be developed in a few Months, and I Yet entertain hopes that our Executive will be anabled to Maintain An Honorable Peace, and to enlarge the Limits of the United States.

Our City has been pecularly Healthy the present Season, several of Your Acquaintances however have passed thr'o dangerous Fevers. I believe the Troops have been unhealthy, but the Deathes few;— You have lost however by Resignation two valuable Officers, Captain Turner and Lieut. Hopkins;— They each intend to become permanent Citizens of this Territory, and I am persuaded will prove useful and worthy Members of Society. It is my intention to confer Civic offices on both of them; But I pray You to be assured that this intention was not communicated to them, until after they had made up their minds to retire from the Army; For however desirous I might be to avail the public here of the services of Capable and Worthy Men, I should esteem it highly improper to make my patronage instrumental in depriving You of the services of any One Officer;— I have introduced Sir, this short and candid explanation, because I have understood (from a source entitled to Confidence) that Colo. Freeman in a Letter to You enclosing Lieut. Hopkin's Resignation, has insinuated that an Offer of a Colonels Commission in the Militia of this Territory was the inducement to that Officers resignation;— An insinuation which is as illiberal as it is Untrue.

It would give me pleasure to hear from You, and to learn the growing prosperity of Your district; You will probably find the duties of Territorial Governor always arduous an often times unpleasant; to myself they have always been so, And my successor in the Mississippi Territory Governor Williams, will I fear have great cause to complain of difficulties; I passed a few days

with him this summer at Natchez, and I assure You he is greatly incommoded by Cato (West) & others. But Williams possesses a Cool Head and a Good Heart, and while his firmness will resent the Attackes of his Enemies, his Virtues cannot fail to recommend him to the People.

I request You to present me respectfully to Mrs. Wilkinson, and beg here acceptance of a Barrel of Oranges which I shall commit to the Care of Lieut. Mulford;— they have been taken from the Trees Green, are carefully put up, and I hope will not be injured on the passage.

Accept my best Wishes!

I am Dear Sir,
With very Great Respect
Your most obdt. hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

New Orleans Octr. 15, 1805

Dear Sir,

During my late Illness at Natchez, I received Your private Letter of the 20th of July, and I immediately transmitted (by a safe conveyance) to Mr. Duplantier, the Packet which You committed to my care.

I am inclined to think, that the Land near this City, which has been mentioned to General La Fayette is not in a situation to be located: There is indeed some dispute as to the Titles, but it is supposed, that the present Claimant Mr. Maregney, will maintain his Claim to the Greater portion of the Tract; and indeed, were it otherwise a location for the General could not be made under the Act of Congress, since there is not one thousand Acres in the Tract.

I am in the expectation of seeing Mr. Deplantier in a few Days, and will again consult with him the means of best promoting the Interest of "A man who enjoys by so good a Titled, the affections of this Country.

Accept Dear Sir, the assurances of my Great Respect and sincere esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

To all who shall see these presents.

His Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo, having expressed to me, his desire to pass by the La Forche and the River Tache to the Sea, and from thence up the River Sabine, as well to enjoy the amusement of Hunting, as to acquire a Geographical Knowledge of the Country, these are to request, that the said Marquis of Casa Calvo, and all Persons who may accompany him, may be permitted to pass unmolested, both in going and returning, and I particularly recommend the Marquis of Casa Calvo and his Companions to the particular, and Friendly attention of the Citizens of the United States.

Given under my Hand and the seal of the Territory, at New Orleans on the 16th day of October in the Year 1805.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Gideon Granger Esqr.)
Post Master General)

New Orleans Octr. 17, 1805

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 19th of July reached me at Natchez during my late Illness. It was immediately forwarded to Mr. Cenas with a request that the Contents

might engage his particular attention and that he would (during my absence adopt such measures for expediting the Mail on the New Route as to him might seem most expedient. It seems however that Mr. Cenas has made no arrangements with a View to permanency and indeed the difficulty and expence of transportation across the Lake were such as to deter him from acting in the Business. I believe Sir, that during the Spring Fall and Winter Seasons a Water Conveyance for the Mail from hence to Mobile must be resorted to or otherwise there will be no certainty in the establishment Mr. Cenas is also of this opinion as appears by the enclosed Letter from him to me and which is now forwarded for Your perusal. If the Plan suggested by Mr. Cenas be approved perhaps it may best to let the Contract to the lowest Bidder after due notice being given thr'o the Medium of the papers. It may be the means of obtaining the most conomical terms, but I fear it will in any event be found to be a very expensive Route.

The frequent delays in the passage of the Mail from this place to Fort Stoddard and the supposed Jealousy of our Spanish Neighbours the Murder of one of the Riders & another having been shot at have all tended to lessen the Confidence of the Citizens in that Route and under existing circumstances I fear You will find it extremely difficult to render the conveyance either safe or expeditious.

I learn that a Peace with Tripoli has been effected but of the particulars I am not advised;— I however am fully persuaded that they are Honorable to the United States and therefore I offer You on the Occasion my warmest Congratulations.

Every thing is tranquil here and my public Duties are

not so arduous and unpleasant as they heretofore have been.

Accept Dr. Sr, my best Wishes
I am with Great Respect
Your friend & Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Thomas Jefferson Esqr.)
President of the U. States)

New Orleans Oct. 16, 1805

Dear Sir,

The Office of Surveyor for this Port having become vacant by the Death of Mr. Andrew Porter, I take the liberty to recommend to You, as his successor, Mr. Peter L. B. Duplissis. This Gentleman is a Native Citizen of the United States, and speaks the French Language in Great purity:— He was formerly in the employ of my deceased friend H. B. Trist, who often spoke of him to me, in the most respectful and Friendly Manner. Mr. Duplissis lately Married a Creole Lady of Louisiana, and is now permanently setteld in this City;— He is a Young Man of Talents, well acquainted with Business, and supports an amiable Character;— Should he therefore on this occasion, be Honored with Your Notice, I verily believe he will discharge with fidelity, and to Your entire satisfaction the trust committed to him.

I am Dear Sir.
with Great Respect
Your faithful friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Lieut. Colo. Freeman

New Orleans October 18, 1805

Sir,

Certain information having been received, that our late Captive fellow Citizens at Tripoli, were restored to Liberty and to their Country, and that a Peace Honorable to the United States had been made with the Tripolitans. Events which have been effected no less by the Wisdom of our Government, than by the Heroism of our Countrymen, I take the liberty to Suggest to You the propriety of Causing a Salute to be fired on the occasion.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To John Ventura Moralis Esqr.

New Orleans October 22, 1805

Sir,

I presume You are informed that the Revenue Officers of His Catholic Majesty at the Town of Mobile have latly exacted a duty of pr. Cent on the passage up the Mobile River of Goods shipped from this port by the agents of the United States and destined for the supply of the American Garrisons and Factories on the Tombicbe River.

As I am some what in doubt whither this proceeding is authorized by the General Order issued by Yourself about the time that You prohibited the deposit of American produce at this Place or whither it may be attributed to some late order from Governor Folch I deem it proper to address you both on the subject. If it emanates from Your Authority I would beg leave to remind You of the

important changes which have taken place since that Order was issued. Changes which have in fact prevented the U. States from urging thr'o their Minister at Madrid their Right to a free Navigation of the Mobile River in as much as they conceived that by purchasing Louisiana they made that River exclusively their own.

Without entering into the Question of Right whether drawn from this purchase from our Treaty with Spain or from the higher Authority of Natural law I will only submit to You the propriety under existing circumstances of suspending the execution of Your Order until you can receive particular Instructions from Your Government how to Act.

Should You adopt this plan it will not be understood that You give up or in any degree weaken any Right which His Catholic Majesty may now have. On the contrary Your acceeding to my proposal will by me be viewed only as an evidence of Your disposition to prevent as far as is in Your power an increase of those difficulties which are already but too sensibly felt in the Negotiations between our Respective Governments.

Accept assurances of my great Respect and high Consideration.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To William Dunbar Esqr.

New Orleans October 23, 1805

Sir,

Your letter of the 10th Instant was duly received, but it did not reach me until two days after the Marquis of Casa Calvo has set out on his excursion to the Westward; I of course could make no arrangements on the Subject, to which You refer; but I believe the Marquis will cer-

tainly return to this City in One Month, or six weeks, and I presume a passport obtained at any time within two Months, will meet Your convenience.

The Marquis proposed ascending the Sabine to the Old post of Adais, with a View of ascertaining the Latitude of that place, and making search for some Stone Posts which are said (I am told by Old Women) to be deposited on a line which formerly divided the French and Spanish possessions West of the Mississippi. On the arrival of the Marquis at Adais, he will be Joined by Captain Turner of the Army, who will witness his proceedings And Communicate to me the particulars.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

With Great Respect
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson Esqr.)
President of the U. States)

New Orleans
October 23, 1805

Dear Sir,

In compliance withe the request contained in Your letter of the 10th of July, I now have the Honor to enclose You a Statement of the Buildings in this City, which devolved on the United States, together with my opinion of the best distribution to be made of them.

The Government House, I presume, ought as heretofore to be appropriated for the accommodation of the Executive; and that convenient Apartments therein, should be set apart as an office for the Secretary of the Territory.

The Barracks, Military Hospital and Public Stores ought to remain for the use of the Army;— But unless

the Regular Forces in this city, should be augmented, I am of opinion that one or two Apartments in the Public Stores, ought to be appropriated to some other public purposes.

The Public School House, I trust, will not be deverted from the laudable object for which it was originally intended, and I therefore recommend, that it be committed to the disposition of the Chancellor and Regents of the University of Orleans.

The lower Custom House, being occupied as an office by Mr. Brown, the Collector, and seeming to suit his convenience, I do not think it proper to interfere with this arrangement, nor do I suppose it would be advisable to disturb the Revd. Mr. Welch in the possession of the Priests House; He has occupied it for many Years, and as the Building is really unfit for public use, I recommend that it be (silently) permitted to remain in his possession.

The Magazine opposite New Orleans, which with a small expence, might be made comfortable is admirably situated for a Marine Hospital, & I advise that it be appropriated to that object;— For the safe deposit of the Public powder, a temporary Magazine might be erected by the Troops on some public Ground near the City.

The old Custom House, and the Cavalry Barracks, being unfit for the accommodation of any of the Public Functionaries, I suppose it advisable to continue them rented out, and that the proceeds be appropriated as they now are, to the Repairs of the Government House, and other Public Buildings.

The Territorial Legislature and Judiciary will no doubt be accomodated by the Territory; they have heretofore occupied Apartments in the Principal, a City Hall, where they probably will continue.

The district Court has experienced much inconvenience, for a suitable place to hold its Sessions, and

really it has not been in my Power to remedy it; But for the future and permanent accomodation of this Branch of the Federal Judiciary, I advise that Suitable Apartments in the Public stores (which can in my opinion be spared) be immediately fitted up, and in the mean time, that the Public School Room, should remain in the possession of the Martial, for the use of the Court.

The commissioners for settling Land Claims, who are to convene in this City, may also be accomodated in the School House, unless indeed, they should be employed for some months, and in which case, I advise that they also be furnished with an Apartment in the Public Stores, for I feel extremely solicitous, that the School House, should early be appropriated to the object for which it was originally intended.

I have the Honor to be with Great Respect

Your faithful friend

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

A list of Buildings in the City of New Orleans belonging to the United States.

1st. The Government House; a large Building, and in its construction particularly adapted to the Climate, being the most airy House in the Territory; It is however very ancient, and much out of repair. This House was formerly occupied by the Spanish Governors of the Territory; certain Apartments in it are appropriated as an Office for the Secretary of the Territory.

2nd. The Military Barracks. A Row of brick Buildings, and sufficiently large to accommodate twelve of fifteen Hundred Men; some inconsiderable Repairs would however be necessary

3rd. The Military Hospital.— A large brick Building adjoining the Barracks and in Good repair.

4th. The Public Stores, Two large brick Buildings and very valuable.

5th. The Cavalry Barracks; consisting of two Brick Buildings. They were much out of Repair, and being out of use I rented them to a Citizen. The conditions were, that two impartial Men, should after giving credit for the repairs fix the Rent pr. Month, and in case of disagreement should select an Umpire whose decision should be final. I have not Yet received any portion of the Rent; but the Person occupying those Houses, is a Printer, who has an account against the U. States for public printing for my department, and as I can at any time, retain in my Hands the Amount due for Rent, I have hitherto delayed calling upon him for a Settlement.

6th. The Old Custom House.— A large Wooden Building, and being unfit for any Public purposes, I rented it also to a Citizen, who Stipulated to give me such sum per Month, as two impartial Citizens should decree; — A Copy of my agreement in this Case, has been forwarded to the Seat of Government, and for the Monies arising therefrom, I hold myself accountable to the Treasury Department. The Old Custom House is near the Levee and at present accomodated a Sail Maker, a Coach Maker, and a Painter. The land on which this House is situated is Claimed by the City.

7th. The lower Custom House; a Small Wooden Building at present in the possession of Mr. Brown the Collector.

8th. The Priest House; A small Wooden Building heretofore appropriated for the residence of the Head of the Church in Louisiana, and where I have permitted Mr. Walch, the Vicar General to continue his Residence.

9th. The Powder Magazine;— A Brick Building near the Shore of the Mississippi, and opposit New Orleans:— It might with some repairs, be made a comfortable Dwelling, and is well situated for a Marine Hos-

pital, for which purpose it was I learn originally intended.

10th. The Public School House;— At present in the possession of Colo. Freeman, but from whence he contemplates removing in a few days, and then it will be appropriated for the accomodation of the district Court until the President of the United States shall direct some other disposition of it. *This is* a Brick Building and well calculated for a public School, the purpose for which it was originally intended.

I do not recollect any other Buildings of importance belonging to the United States and situated in this City. To some of those I have enumerated, there are annexed some handsome Lotts of Ground and Convenient Out Houses

The Principal or City Hall a Very Beautiful and commodious Building is Claimed by the City Council as the property of the City, and under an impression that their Claim was a good one I have committed it solely to their disposition.[1]

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

New Orleans
October 24, 1805

Sir,

I am sorry to inform You of the Embarrassments to which the Citizens of the United States are subjected who Navigate the Mobile River. All American Vessels passing by the Town of Mobile are brought to and a duty of Pr. Cent exacted, both on imports and Exports;— These duties are even required on Articles passing to

[1] For descriptive plot of New Orleans see Martin's History of Louisiana.

and from the Garrisons and Factories of the United States.

I have addressed on this occasion, a Letter to Mr. Moralis, by whom it is said, this proceeding was Authorized; But in his answer, which was this Morning received, he professes to be unacquainted with the particulars, and declines any interference, until he should advise upon the subject with the Governor of West Florida.

I have certain information of the Arrival at Pensacola of 400 Troops from Havanna; and that a much larger Number is daily expected. I also learn from a source entitled to credit that three Hundered Men are Ordered from Pensacola to Batton Rouge, and that 800 Spanish Troops have lately been posted on the Frontiers of the Province of Taxus. It is a fact Known to me, that a Spanish Agent has contracted with a Merchant of this City, for the delivery at the Town of Mobile, of four thousands Barrells of Flour, and that this same Agent not being able to effect a contract for the delivery of four thousand pair of Shoes at Mobile, has purchased a Quantity of Leather. The Marquis of Casa Calvo being absent from this City, it is my intention to require of Governor Folch an explanation of the Object of these Military Movements.

I flatter myself that Hostilities between the United States and Spain may be avoided, and that an Honorable adjustment of differences may ensue:— But I am enclined to think that the Spanish Agents calculate on a speedy Rupture, and are making all the preparations, which their means permit, to commence the War in this Quarter to advantage. New Orleans would unquestionably be the first object of Attack, and with a view to its security, I should be pleased to see Fort St. John repaired, and put in a state of defence. That Fort commands the Mouth of the Bayou St. John, and if strengthened would present a great impediment to the passage of

Troops from Pensacola and Mobile by the way of the Lakes to this City; At present, the Works are in Ruins, but might readily be repaired, and made defensible, without any considerable expenditure. I have communicated to Colonel Freeman (the Officer Commanding here) my Ideas of the importance of Fort St. John;— But he does not agree with me in opinion, and says further, that he has not the means of Strengthening any Fort.

If our differences with Spain should still be unsettled, I beg leave to suggest for consideration, the propriety of taking some immediate measures for the security of this Territory, and particularly the City of New Orleans. I can only calculate with certainty on the Valor and patriotism of a part of the Militia of this Territory; I Know, that from the Mississippi Territory speedy support would in the event of danger be given;— But I nevertheless think that the Strengthening of Forts St. John, and St. Phillip; the Mounting of Cannon as well those suited for Forts as for use in the Field; the Collecting of Ample supplies of Ammunition and the Stationing on the River Mississippi and the Lakes a few Gun Boats would be wise measures of precaution.

I have the Honor to be Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Robert Williams Esqr.)
Governor of the Mississippi Territory)

Octr. 24, 1805
New Orleans

Dear Sir,

I have certain information of the Arrival at Pensacola of 400 Troops, and it is said that a much larger Number is daily expected.

I also learn from a source entitled to credit, that 300 Men are ordered from Pensacola to Batten Rouge, and that 800 Spanish Troops have recently been posted on the Frontiers of the Province of Taxus. It is a fact Known to me that a Spanish Agent has contracted for the delivery at Mobile of 4000 Barrells of Flour, And that the same Agent not being enabled to procure by contract, the delivery of 4000 pair of Shoes at Mobile, has purchased a Quantity of Leather.

I still hope, that an Honorable adjustment of differences between the United States and Spain may be effected; But I am persuaded, that the Spanish Agents in our Vicinity, calculate on an immediate Rupture, and that they are making all the preparations which their means permit, to commence the War in this Quarter with advantage. Until therefore, we have information of an Amicable Settlement of differences, or some strong assurances that Hostilities will not be resorted to, permit me my Dear Sir, to advise, that You remain at Your Post. I well Know, that if You were to depart for North Carolina, and any difficulties should arise in Your Absence, that You would be extremely mortified— And therefore altho I strongly hope, that Peace may with Honor be preserved, Yet least War may speedily commence, I should regret your absence from a position, where You Might be among the first, to partake of the danger and the Glory of defending our Country.

I have purchased for You an elegant Sword; it is similar to one I have procured for myself, and is said to be the Kind of small arms at present worn by the Generals in France.

Accept Dr. Sir, the best wishes of
Your faithful Friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr.)
Secretary of War)

New Orleans
October 24, 1805

Sir,

I have the Honor to enclose You certain Depositions, and a letter which gives the information of the settlement of the French high up the Red River;— These documents have been obtained by Captain Turner in conformity to my Instructions.

Accept assurances of my great Respect and sincere Esteem

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State)

New Orleans
October 30, 1805

Sir,

I enclose for Your perusal and information Copies of several depositions which have been forwarded to me, by Doctor Sibley;— These documents prove the establishment of a Garrison on the Trinity River, and State the particulars of several outrages committed on the Citizens of the United States by Persons in the employ of the Spanish Government. I shall not fail to make suitable Representations on this Subject, to the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and to the Governor General of the Province of Taxus; but it is not probable that adequate redress will be afforded for the Injury done.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Robert Williams Esqr.)
Governor of the Mississippi Territory)

New Orleans
October 30, 1805

Dear Sir,

The various reports which have reached me of the Hostile intention of the Spaniards towards the United States, and the Warlike preparations at Pensacola and other places in our Vicinity, have enduced me, to write a letter to Governor Folch, of which the enclosed is a Copy.

Mr. Graham who is good enough to be the Bearer of my despetches, will take his passage in the first Vessel, passing to Mobile and on his Return, I will be enabled to give You more particular information.

I will transmit Your Sword by the first opportunity. The Cost which is Ninety dollars I fear You will deem extravagant. But the Sword and its decorations are truly handsome, and the Gentleman of whom I purchased them assures me, he makes nothing by the Sale. I have not been enabled to procure suitable Epaulets.

Accept my best Wishes
Your Friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr.)
Secretary of War)

New Orleans
October 30, 1805

Sir,

The enclosed depositions, which were obtained and forwarded to me by Doctor Sibley, clearly prove the Settlement of the French at the Antient Caddo Village, on the Waters of Red River, and I expect to be enabled in

a short time to transmit You testimony going to shew, that other Settlements in Louisiana, were formed under the French Government still further to the West.

Six Hundred Troops have arrived at Pensacola from the Havanna, and it is reported that the Garrisons of Mobile and Batton Rouge are to receive considerable reinforcements. A Governor General for the Province of Taxus has arrived at St Antoine; he is a Brigadier General, and said to possess Military Talents. A Fort is erected on the Trinity River, and about two Hundred Men (the greater part Cavalry) are there Stationed.

I Know not how the Negotiations between the United States and Spain has terminated, but the Conduct of the Spaniards in this Quarter is highly exceptionable, and manifests a Hostile disposition:— I have however, in several of my *late letters* to the Secretary of State explained myself more fully upon this Subject, and to which I beg leave to refer You for further information.

Accept assurance of my Great Respect and sincere Esteem.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Coctr. John Sibley. New Orleans Octr. 30, 1805

Sir,

I have received Your several Letters of the 6th 7th & 9th of September, and the 5th of October.

The information You give concerning the Indians is highly interesting, and the fidelity with which You discharge the Trust reposed in You, is noticed with much satisfaction. The Laws of the Territory have been forwarded to You, and those of the United States which You desire, shall be transmitted by the first opportunity.

On the first of November, the duties and powers of a Superintendant of Indian Affairs, will under the Act

and Ordinance of Congress, devolve upon me as Governor of this Territory. I am therefore in the expectation of receiving very soon some General Instructions upon this Subject. But in the mean time, I can only advise that You conform Yourself to the wishes and views of the President as far as they have been made Known to You either from himself or thr'o the Secretary of War, and in Cases of emergency which will not admit of delay that You exercise a prudent discretion.

I am much obliged to You, for the depositions relative to settlement of the French at the Antient Caddo Village; they have been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and cannot fail to be satisfactory.

I am desirous to see a Copy, or the original of the French Manuscript, in full expectation that it will prove an important document and go to support the Claim of the United States to the Rio Bravo. If the original Copy is not Yet transmitted to the Seat of Government, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of War will shew You, that it is the wish of that Officer, that the original Copy should thr'o me, be forwarded to the President.

The late aggressions of the Spaniards which You represent, are highly offensive and shall be communicated to the President of the United States, who will take the Necessary Measures to obtain redress for the injury offered. In the mean time I shall not fail to make suitable Representations on the Subject to the higher Spanish Functionaries in our Vicinity.

I am sorry for the Inconveniences which are experienced in Organizing the County Court of Natchitoches, but they Arise principally from the difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of a suitable Person as Judge of the County.

Having understood, that Captain Turner has resigned his Commission in the Army, I shall appoint him

Judge, so soon as his resignation as Captain of the Army is Accepted of which I presume I shall receive information in two Weeks.

Desirous of availing the public of Your services in the Militia, and in expectation that a Military appointment might promote Your influence with the Indians, I have enclosed You a Commission as Captain of a Troop of Horse, and will thank You to recommend Suitable Characters for Your Subaltern Officers.

You no doubt have heard of the Honorable Treaty made with Tripoli, and the Very Gallant Conduct of our Countrymen which led the Bashaw to acknowledge the superiority of the American Arms and to entreat for Peace. I offer You my congratulations on the occasion, accompanied with a wish that All other Nations who offer wrongs to the United States may sooner or later be made to Know the Respect due to our Country and to her Rights.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To John Watkins Esqr.

New Orleans Octr. 31, 1805

Sir,

Your Letter of the Morning, together with its enclosures, has been received, and shall agreeably to Your request be forwarded to the President.

The Military should have no concern with the police of the City, and I am inclined to think that their late Interference with the City Guard, originated in mistake;—I hope however, that a similar inconvenience will not again take place.

I agree with You in the necessity of preserving a Strict police, and I am Happy to find, that under Your

direction, the Necessary Measures or pursued, to indure safety and Good Order thro'out the City.

I hope the Necessary Steps will be taken, to render Your City Watch or Guard as little exceptionable as possible, and that the present plan of the Gen. D'amery will be new modeled;— But whatever Watch the City Councils may prescribe, must by Your Authority be made respected.

I will endeavour to remedy the Inconvenience complained of by the Citizens;— But whatever I may do on the occasion, must be by way of Request, for it is not admitted by the Officer Commanding here, that the Governor has any Controul over the Military.

I am Sir,
With Great Respect
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson Esqr.)
President of the United States)

New Orleans
October 31, 1805

Dear Sir,

Of late there has been a difference between the Mayor of this City, and the Officer commanding the Troops.[1] The correspondence which ensued, I now have the Honor to enclose You, in Conformity to the particular Request of the Mayor, who is desirous that his conduct on the Occasion should be Know to You.

My Official Letters to the Secretary of State, will acquaint You with the State of things in this Quarter.

I am Dear Sir,
With Great Respect
Your faithful Friend
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

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[1] A quarrel between Mayor Watkins and Col. Freeman.

To Governor Folch New Orleans Octr. 31, 1805
Sir,

The embarrassments to which the Citizens of the United States are subjected, who Navigate the River and Bay of Mobile, are seen and regreted:— My silence on this Subject heretofore has arisen from an expectation, that the Wrong would have been perceived and remedied by Your Authority:— But being assured, that all Vessels passing to and from the Territories of the United States on the Tombicbee River, are still brought to at the Town of Mobile, and a duty of 12 Pr. Cent exacted on their Cargos, I can no longer refrain from addressing Your Excellency and complaining of an Injury which if persisted in, cannot fail to Weaken that Good understanding which it is the Interest of our two Nations to cultivate and preserve. I shall decline discussing the Right of the United States to a free, Innocent, and uninterrupted use of the Waters of the Mobile, to and from the Ocean, whether drawn from the Treaty of San Lorenzo el Real, from the higher Authority of Natural Law or from the Cession to the United States of the Colony or Province of Louisiana, but will only submit to Your Excellency, the propriety, under existing circumstances of suspending the further exaction of duties (at Mobile) on the Commerce of the United States, until You shall receive particular Instructions from Your Government how to Act.

Should You acceed to this proposition it will not be understood that You give up or in the least degree invalidate any Right which his Catholic Majesty may now have; But Your Acquiescence will only be received as an evidence of a disposition to prevent as far as may be in Your power, an encrease of those difficulties, which are already too sensibly felt in the Negociations between our Respective Governments.

I cannot omit the present opportunity to introduce Another Subject, which merits and has received a share of my attention. I learn from a source entitled to Credit, that the Garrisons of Mobile and Batton Rouge either have, or are about to receive considerable reinforcements under the Orders of Your Excellency.

I am not disposed to Credit the Vague Rumors, which have been spread abroad, that these encreased armaments were preparatory to an expected Rupture with the United States; Yet as I cannot conjecture the Cause of such sudden and important Military movements, I deem it a duty to ask of Your Excellency some information on the Subject: I had hoped, that no new Positions of agumentation of Military Force within the Territory claimed both by the United States and Spain, would have been directed, whilst Negotiations between our respective Governments were in train. Such measures on the part of Spain, will probably lead the United States to direct on their part some provisional Arrangements;— But previous to my making to my Government a representation upon so interesting a subject, I have deemed it advisable to communicate with Your Excellency, and to await such explanations as You may think proper to give me.

I have committed this dispatch to The Honorable John Graham Secretary for this Territory, who is perfectly acquainted with my Sentiments on the Subject Matter thereof, and will explain them more fully to your Excellency, whenever he may be Honored with an Audience.

I pray Your Excellency, to receive the assurance of my very great and Respectable Consideration.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison Esqr.)
Secretary of State) New Orleans
October 31st. 1805

Sir,

In consequence of the embarrassments to which the commerce of the United States is exposed by the exaction of heavy duties at the Town of Mobile, the various reports which have reached me of the Hostile disposition of the Spaniards, and of the Warlike preparations at Pensacila, and other places in the Vicinity of this Territory, I have been induced to address a letter to Governor Folch, of which the enclosed is a Copy.

I have avoided introducing in my communication any sentiment or expression that could give offence, and I trust I have said nothing that will be deemed exceptionable by the President of the U. States.

My Friend Mr. Graham who on this Occasion is good enough to be the Bearer of my Dispatch, will take passage on the first Vessel passing from hence to Mobile or Pensacola, and on his return, I shall enabled to write You more particularly.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Sevt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

Address to the House of Representatives

New Orleans 4th Novr. 1805

Receive fellow Citizens of the House of Representatives, my congratulations on the pleasing testimony afforded you of the public Esteem; and in anticipating the fidelity with which the trust reposed upon you will be discharged, I only give a proof of that confidence to which

every individual is entitled, whom a free people have honored with their patronage.

Limited as your immediate powers are, they nevertheless are important, and in the prudent exercise thereof, the best interest of this Territory is deeply involved.

After organizing your House, and electing a Speaker, and other necessary Officers, the only duty which for the present devolves upon you, will be to nominate by Ballot Ten persons residents in the Territory, possessing each a freehold Estate in five Hundred acres of land, and to return their names to the President of the United States; five of whom will be by him commissioned as Legislative Councellors. Your nomination will I am Persuaded be confined to Men whose Wisdom and experience will deserve Respect, and whose Integrity of character will command the confidence of the People.

As the Council composes a distinct Branch of the Territorial Legislature, I might suggest the Propriety of including in your Selection Citizens residing in the Several Districts, in Order that the Local Interest may be represented;— But Gentlemen it is unnecessary to extend my observations, being well assured that every Proper consideration will have due weight, and lead to a Just nomination, I cannot however forbear expressing my solicitude for an early discharge of this particular duty, for until the Counsellors are appointed, a complete Organization of the Government cannot be effected. An Organization the more necessary, since early Legislative Provision on several important Subjects is essential to the convenience of our Constituents and to the Welfare of this Territory.

William C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novemr. 5: 1805

Sir,

The members of the House of Representatives of this Territory, to the number of nineteen, assembled on yesterday at the Hotel de Ville in Conformity to my proclamation of the 20th of July last. I attended them in person, and after administering to each member, the oath to support the constitution of the United States, and an oath of Office, I delivered a short address, of which the inclosed is a Copy.

It is reported here and generally believed, that the Marquis of Casa Calvo, who has gone to the Post of Adais, took with him 32,000 dollars, various are the conjectures as to the real Objects of the Marquis's Journey; some have said that he is to meet, on the frontiers of the Province of Taxus, 3000 troops, of which he is to take the command; others, that he is engaged in Sowing discontent among the people of this Territory; and there are some again, who suppose that the conciliating the Indian tribes to the Spanish interest, in the event of a rupture with the United States, is deemed important, and that to this object the Marquis proposed appropriating the money he carried with him. New Orleans, however, is fruitful in Reports, and it is difficult to say how far those in circulation may be correct; but if any reliance can be placed in the assurances given me by the Marquis himself, he had no Object in view hostile to the United States; that on the contrary he only proposed a Short excursion on a hunting party, and if the weather permitted, to ascend the Sabine as far as Adais, the latitude and longitude of which place, he proposed taking; but on this Subject, my letter to you of the Ultimo was explicit, and to which I beg to refer you.

It is certain that great exertions are making to for-

tify strongly Pensacola and Mobile—at the former place new Barracks are erecting for the reception, as is said, of 4,000 Troops whose arrival is daily expected. There is also no doubt but that 200 troops have been ordered to Baton Rouge, and it is supposed they are now on their march.[1]

Doctor Sibley writes me on the 14 Ultimo, "Some troops have arrived at Nacosdoches, 'tis said 220 – and 'tis likewise Said they are going to fortify, in a short time, within 5 or 6 leagues of Natchitoches;– considering the attachment to them of their Militia, and the contrary towards us of our militia, they are Stronger than we are, counting numbers."

I have little doubt of the correctness of Doctor Sibley's information, nor do I hesitate to give it as my Opinion, that the Spanish authorities in the vicinity of this Territory, contemplate a speedy rupture with the United States, and are making every preparation to commence the War, on their part, to advantage:— Under these impressions, I deem it a duty to advise Some immediate measures for the protection of Louisiana, and particularly of the City of New Orleans.

The regular troops here, are few in number, nor can I rely with certainty on the body of the militia; I believe that many of the Creoles of the Country would be faithfull to the American Government— but perhaps a majority of them would remain neutral, and I am inclined to think that most of the Frenchmen, and all the Spaniards, who reside here, in the event of war would favor the Spanish interest. These are my impressions, and I deem it a duty to impart them to you.

It remains now for me to advise, that the force now here, be used to the best advantage, and that it be aug-

[1] This reinforcement was rather natural in view of the resentment against Spain in West Florida.

mented as soon as possible. I advise that Fort St. John and Plaquemine be repaired and placed in a state of defence,— that the Troops at Fort Adams (leaving a small guard for the public property) be removed to Point Coupee,— that the troops in this city (leaving only a necessary guard for the public Stores and Barracks) should be posted at Fort St. John, and above and below New Orleans at suitable positions, not more than Six miles distant from this City;—this situated, a degree of discipline might be introduced which the best commander cannot enforce among Troops Stationed in a City,— Protection also might be given to Plaquemine, if threatened with attack,— the passage of a Hostile army, by the way of the Lakes, or from Baton Rouge, might be opposed,— Various rallying points would be presented for the patriotic Citiens of the militia,— and if any unforseen circumstances Should render the presence of the army in New Orleans necessary, it might easily be acquired.

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

New Orleans Novr. 6th 1805

Dear Sir,

Since my last letter, I have made with Coll. Freeman an arrangement concerning the regular guards, which I trust will put an end to those complaints heretofre exhibited by the Citizens.

The Troops Stationed here have I believe conducted themselves as well as an Army ever did Similarly Situated; but it is impossible for any commander to maintain discipline among Men posted in a City, where the temptations to dissipation are so various, & the means

of evading the attention of Officers so easy. For these therefore and other reasons detailed in my Official letter to the Secretary of State of the 5th instant, I advised the removal of the Army from New Orleans.[1]

My friend Mr. Graham has set out for Pensacola, and will deliver in person my letter to Governor Folch; his answer will probably be interesting, and shall be immediately transmitted to the Secretary of State, who I presume will have received before this reaches you, a Copy of my Communication to Governor Folch.

I sincerely hope that you will be enabled to bring to an amicable termination our present differences with Spain; No man more than myself appreciates the Blessing of Peace or would more Sincerely regret an event which would entangle the United States in those disputes, which promise for many years, to involve Europe in the miseries of War. But if Spain should not be inclined to be just towards us and hostilities should commence, there is no American Citizen who more than myself, would rejoice in an Opportunity to manifest in the field my devotion to the Interest & honor of my Country.

Friend Briggs left this City on yesterday for Natchez, he has lately been the object of abuse and like all others, who are unused to attacks of the kind, he discovers a Share of mortification; he has however a consolation which will in the end reconcile him even to calumny, and I am Sure his good name will not be injured. I believe him to be a faithful Officer and an honest Man & of his ability to discharge the trust committed him, there can be no doubt.

William C. C. Claiborne

Thomas Jefferson Esqr.
President of the United States

[1] Conflicts of jurisdiction between the city authorities and the military were very annoying to the citizens of New Orleans and led to much discontent.

New Orleans Novemr. 7th 1805

Sir

Your letter of the 20th September was duly received.

Mr. Benjamin Morgan having executed the Bond which is herewith enclosed, I delivered him the license, you forwarded to me.

On the 5th of this month I gave to the Secretary of State, very full information as to the movements of our Spanish Neighbours — they certainly anticipate a rupture with the United States, & are making warlike preparations;— 220 Troops have arrived at Nacogdoches, and it is Said, they mean to reoccupy the Post of Adais; The Garrisons of Mobile and Baton Rouge have been reinforced, and preparations are making at Pensacola for the reception of a very considerable force. But for more particular information on those points, I refer you to my letter to the Secretary of State.

I have no doubt but that we have a few Spanish Soldiers in this City, who have disguised their outward Garb;— the inclosed deposition gives Some information concerning them, their movements will be watched, and Such measures pursued, as their conduct may justify.

Accept assurances of my great Respect & Sincere Esteem.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Henry Dearborn Esqr.
Secy. of War

New Orleans Novr. 8th 1805

Sir,

I enclose you a copy of the answer which the House of Representatives have returned to my address; You will perceive that it is respectful and friendly; I am happy to find that nothing of party Spirit has yet been

manifested & I indulge a hope that the members generally will pursue a Conduct which will be approved.

Believing that a declaration of the devotion of the House of Representatives of this Territory to the interest of the United States, would at this particular Crisis produce a happy political effect, I shall endeavour to bring *it* about; But at present I cannot say how far my wishes may be gratified; I am however impressed with an opinion that the Creoles of the Country are for the most part well disposed, and several influential natives of France who are here, seem fully to appreciate the merits of the American Government.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 11th 1805

Sir,

I learn from Mr. Brown the Collector, that an English Vessell, with a Cargo of African Slaves, is in the Mississippi. You will cause this Vessell to be brought to at the Fort, and not permit the landing of a Negro.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Humble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the Officer)
Commanding at)
Plaquemines)

New Orleans Novemr. 12: 1805

Sir,

Since my letter of ye. 5th instant I have received further intelligence of the progress of the Marquis of Casa Calvo; He is Said to have arrived at the Sea Shore, and proposed prosecuting his voyage to the mouth of the

Sabine and from thence to the Old Post of Adais. The Marquis is stated to have taken with him an assortment of *goods* calculated for Indian presents, but whether *they* were designed (only) to ensure the safety of his person, in the excursion, or for the *advancement of Some important National Object,* is a question on which my present information is not such, as to enable me to give a conclusive Opinion: I am however inclined to think, the latter is the most probable. The Journey of the Marquis has excited much attention in this quarter, and gives rise to a variety of reports:— The prospect of war between the United States and Spain is the constant theme of conversation; the Spanish Officers in our vicinity, speak of it as an inevitable event.

I have received but *one letter* from the Department of State for three months past, and in *that* nothing was Said as to our relations with Spain. I reviewed on the 10th instant the Battalion of Orleans Volunteers; It is composed principally of Americans and Creoles of Louisiana who possess a great share of Military Ardor;— the enclosed is a Copy of a general Order which I have issued on the occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir,

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 13th 1805

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose you a copy of a Resolution which was this day unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives of this Territory, and to Subscribe myself.

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

Very Respectfully
Your Hble Servt
W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 14th 1805

Sir,

It is reported here, and generally believed, that the Marquis of Casa Calvo, in his Journey to the Westward, has in view objects hostile to the interest of the United States, and that his intrigues will be considerable among the Indians. I pray you Sir, to take means to ascertain his movements & to inform me the particulars.

If we are to credit newspaper Statements, Russia, Sweden and Austria are in alliance with Great Britain, and have united with her, in the war against France and Spain: An event of this kind cannot fail to prove favorable to the United States; It is now probable, that the limits of Louisiana will be promptly acknowledged, and that our Country will remain in peace.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Hble Servt.

Doctor John Sibley — W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 14: 1805

Dear Sir,

I enclose you three blank Commissions for Justices of the Peace in the County of Nachitoches, which you will be pleased to fill up with names of discreet, honest Men. A Mr. Dumas of your County has been well spoken of to me. If he will Serve as Justice of the Peace, you will be pleased to give him a Commission.

So soon as Captain Turner's resignation is accepted, he will be commissioned your Judge, when I hope the Judiciary of your County will be more settled than heretofore.

There has been so many resignations in the different Counties, that I really do not know the names of the Gentlemen now in Office. You will oblige me therefore, if

you would transmit to me, the names of the Civil officers of your County, with the dates of their Commission. For the news of this place I refer you to your Representative Major Prudhomme.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Jno. C. Kerr
Nachitoches

Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 14: 1805

Dear Sir,

Having understood that a Navy Agent to reside in this City, would be very soon appointed, I take the liberty to mention to you Mr. Jno. Clay as meriting your patronage; He is a Merchant here of a respectable Standing, a young Man of enterprise and great Integrity of character. His Connections in the Western Country are extensive and he acts as Agent for many of the Western traders, which will enable him to furnish with great certainty the Naval Supplies.

If security Should be required, Mr. Clay will find no difficulty in giving it, for he possesses the esteem and confidence of all (I believe) who know him.

I am sure you will excuse my Solicitude on this occasion, when I assure you that my only object is to serve a meritorious young Man, whom I know would be faithful to the Government.

Accept dear Sir assurances of my great respect & sincere esteem.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Rt. Smith
Secy. of the Navy

New Orleans Novr. 20: 1805

Sir,

The inclosed paper will furnish you with a copy of an address, from the House of Representatives of this Territory to the President of the United States: It was unanimously adopted, and evidences a degree of patriotism which I hope may have a good effect.

I contemplate convening the Legislature some time about the last of February, and am therefore solicitous for an early appointment of the Counsellors; a list of the Citizens recommended by the House of Representatives has been transmitted to the President. I received yesterday a letter from Mr. Graham, dated the 14: Instant on the lake; he had experienced opposite winds, and apprehended a long passage to Pensacola.

I have the honor to be Sir,

The Honble.
James Madison
Secretary of State

Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 22nd 1805

Sir,

An American schooner, which was lately captured and carried into the Havana, has been released, and the owners of the Privateer, that made the Capture, have been ordered to pay a considerable sum of money, for the injury done. This circumstance has afforded much pleasure to the merchants here, & will doubtless greatly benefit the Commerce of the Port.

You will read with pleasure the address of Mr. Detrahan to the House of Representatives; He seems at this time to be a good American, and I think I have observed of late a favorable change in the public sentiment. No Man entertains a greater regard for the ancient Inhabi-

tants of Louisiana, than myself, or more appreciates their many private Virtues, and I entertain strong hopes, that in a few years, they will become very zealous members of the American Republic:—

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

New Orleans Novr. 22: 1805

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a duplicate of my letter of the Ult.

The Barracks in this City, with some repairs which might readily be made by the soldiers, would afford comfortable quarters for Officers and Privates.

I have always thought that the officer commanding the Troops, should reside in the Barracks; the *apartments* are commodious, and *Colonel Freeman* might (if he pleased) convert some of *them* into very convenient chambers for his own accomodation.

I am Dear Sir
With great respect
Your faithful friend
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Thomas Jefferson Esqr.
President of the United States

To Col. Henry Hopkins

New Orleans Novr. 24: 1805

Sir,

You will proceed without delay, & by the most convenient route to the Counties of Attackapas, Opelousas, Rapide, Natchitoches, and Ouachita and give all the aid

in your power, towards effecting a speedy Organization of the Militia.

You are furnished with a number of blank Military Commissions which you will fill up with the names of discrete and respectable Citizens; But in making a selection, you will keep in view, the following instructions:– to wit – In the eighth Regiment I desire that the Colonel and One Major should be native Americans; and the other Major a Creole of the Province;– In the tenth Regiment you will leave the office of Colonel vacant, and commission two Majors, One a Native Citizen of the U. States to reside at Rapide and the other, a Creole or ancient Louisianian to reside at Natchitoches. In Ouachita you will commission as Major a native American. In selecting Captains and Subalterns you will endeavor to make an equal distribution (when the population will permit) among the Ancient and modern Louisianians; But in all appointments you are to consider a fair Reputation as an essential Qualification, and an attachment to the Government of the United States as a great recommendation.

In selecting suitable characters for Militia Officers for the County of Opelousas, you will advise with Judge Collins; for those of Rapide you will consult with Mr. Fulton; for those of Natchitoches, you will advise with Captain Turner; and for the Officers of the County of Attackapas, you will be influenced by your own Judgment and knowledge of the Citizens.

It is my wish that Mr. Elmer of Oppelousas, should be commissioned Colonel of the Eighth Regiment, and that an old revolutionary Officer whose name Mr. Fulton will give you be appointed a Major in the tenth Regiment: You will also Commission Captain Shaumburg as Brigade Major of the Third Brigade and appoint a Creole or Ancient Louisianian Brigade Major of the second Brigade. Doctor Sibley having heretofore been commissioned by me as Captain of a Troop of Horse, you will

consult with him as to his Subalterns; & after commissioning the most suitable characters, you will inform the Captain, that an early enlistment and equipment of his Troop would give me satisfaction.

From Ouachita you will pass through Concordia, Point Coupee, Iberville, Lafourche, Acadia, & German Coast;– In these counties, the field Officers have already been commissioned, and after having assisted them in arranging their Battalion and Company Districts, you will commission (in the several Regiments) a necessary number of Captains & Subalterns, having previously advised with the several field Officers as to the most suitable characters; In Attackapas, you will commission Mr. Leblanc, & A. Neclouet Captains, and in Acadia I wish Mr. Scott to be appointed a Captain.

In Lafourche I wish Mr. Thibodeau commissioned a Captain & young Romain of Acadia a first Lieutenant of Horse.

Captain Tureaud having already been appointed a Captain of Horse and attached to the Second Brigade, you will commission such persons, as he shall recommend for second Lieutenant & Cornet, and instruct the Captain to recruit his Company, & make due return thereof, to the office of the Adjutant General.

Wishing you an agreeable Journey & the enjoyment of health

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.

Coll. Henry Hopkins — Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Novr. 25: 1805

Sir,

In your Journey through the different Counties, you will I am persuaded, esteem it a duty to remove any prejudices against the Government, which may exist, and to

arrest all unnecessary alarm, which may have been excited among the People, by the artifice and Intrigues of designing Men.

You may assure the Citizens that the Country will remain attached to the United States; that the honest claimant of lands has nothing to fear by the act of Congress, requiring an exhibition of their Titles, but on the contrary, that their claims will be liberally confirmed according to the equity of their situation and not to rigorous law:– You will add, that the People are not to be burthened with Taxes, but by and with the consent of their Own Representatives, and that such will probably continue to be very light.

You will endeavour to find out the most influential Men in the different Counties, and to ascertain their character public and private, and particularly their disposition * * * *

(Manuscript missing up to Jan. 11, 1806)

* * * * the execution of the Orders of General Wilkinson.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Coll. Freeman. W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 11: 1806

Sir,

In conformity to the orders of the President of the United States, I have to require, that you hasten your departure from this Territory, and that you take with you, or direct to depart as soon as possible, all those Persons

who are employed in that particular Branch of his Catholic Majesty's Service, at the head of which you are placed.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble. John V. Morales.

Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 12: 1806

Sir,

The object of your Journey is to meet the Marquis of Casa Calvo, who is supposed to be on his return to this City, & to deliver to him in person, the Letter with which you are charged. The Marquis was about five weeks since on the River Occokasaw, and from thence it is said, he was to proceed to the old Post of Adais, & to pass by Natchitoches on his way to New Orleans;– It is probable therefore that you may find him some where in the vicinity of Natchitoches. I advise, that your Route be, by La fourche to Attackapas, & from thence to Nachitoches, You will make however frequent enquiries concerning the Marquis, & if the information received, should authorize you, to alter your course, you will do so, for my wish is, that the Marquis should receive my letter as soon as possible.

On your arrival at Natchitoches (should you have occasion to go so far) if you learn that the Marquis is at Adais, you will proceed there, & deliver the letter; but should he be in the interior of the Province of Taxus, you will commit my letter to the care of the Officer Commanding at Natchitoches, with a request that he would cause it to be delivered to the Marquis as soon as he shall arrive in the vicinity of Nachitoches.

You will write me from time to time & inform me of

the progress of your Journey, & the information you may acquire of the Marquis.

If you should go so far as Adais you can obtain a Pilot at Nachitoches. You will keep an account of your expences, & they shall be reimbursed you,

Accept my best wishes.

I am Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Captn. Geo. F. Ross — Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 12: 1806

Sir,

Your Letter of the 11th inst., in answer to my Note of the same date, has been received.

In communicating to you the Orders of the President of the United States— I have so far discharged my duty, nor is it in my power to deviate from them.

If his Catholic Majesty wishes an accredited agent to reside at New Orleans, the proper channel of application, would be thro' his Minister to the President of the United States.

As you seem solicitous to know the period, at which the Presidents Order was given, I have no hesitation in informing you, that the letter of the Secretary of State communicating it to me, bears date on the 18th of November last.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble. — Very Respectfully

John V. Morales. — Your Hble. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Major Porter

New Orleans Jany. 12: 1806

Sir,

I have sent Captain Ross of the Battalion of Orleans Volunteers to meet the Marquis of Casa Calvo, & to deliver to him a letter, which conveys an Order from the President of the United States for the Spanish Officers to quit the Territory of Orleans as soon as possible.

Should the Marquis, notwithstanding this Order, endeavour to proceed to this City, you will if in your power, stop him, even if it should be necessary to use force to the effect.

I am Sir

Major Porter
Commanding at
Fort Claiborne[1]

Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans Jany 12: 1806

Sir,

The enclosure No. 1 is a Copy of a Note I have addressed to Mr. Morales & that No. 2 of a letter which I have forwarded by Captain Ross to the Marquis of Casa Calvo.

I have deemed it of importance to prevent the Return of the Marquis to this City, there are many persons here, who are favorable to the Spanish Interest, & if the Marquis was present and disposed to be mischievous, he might give me trouble.

I hope my letter to the Marquis will be approved, It

[1] In the District of Natchitoches.

has been shaped according to your Instructions & the circumstances of the times.

The enclosure No. 3 is a copy of my letter to the officer commanding at Nachitoches & that No. 4 of my Instructions to Captain Ross;— If the Marquis after the receipt of my letter should still be disposed to proceed to this City, his designs must certainly be hostile & therefore it is that I have requested the officer commanding at Nachitoches to stop him.

Permit me to assure you Sir, that the Orders of the President as far as they are known, are highly approved by the well disposed of the citizens of this Territory;- they are given at an Opportune Period, and I must confess, that I take great pleasure in executing them.

My last letter to you was dated on the — instant.

I have the honor to be Sir,

The Honble. With great Respect
James Madison Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans, Jany. 13: 1806

Sir,

The enclosure No. 1 is the translation of a letter from Mr. Morales to me, and that, No. 2 of my answer. You will perceive my determination not to be drawn into a discussion.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the most perfect Order at present prevails, and I have no doubt but I shall be enabled to preserve it.

The regular Troops in this City do not exceed 280 Men including officers, and of these about 60 are sick in the Hospital and Quarters. Coll. Freeman, notwithstanding is about to detach one full company to Fort Adams by a special order of General Wilkinson. I have expressed a wish that a compliance with the Order

should, for the present be suspended; but Coll. Freeman conceives the Orders of the General binding on him, and the Company is to move in 2 or 3 days.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble. Very respectfully
James Madison Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 15: 1806

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a Return of the Battalion of Orleans Volunteers:— It gives me pleasure to add, that this corps is composed of active, gallant young men, who possess much military ardor, & would if the occasion required, support with firmness, the Interest and honor of their Country.

You are also furnished, with a return of the Orleans Troop of Horse; I am sorry their number is as small but I persuade myself, it will soon be augmented, & that the corps will become highly respectable and useful.

It is not yet in my power to transmit you a Return of the Militia of the City;— I certainly feel greater difficulties in the general Organization of the Militia, that had been anticipated, but I hope to surmount them in a short time.

I also enclose for your perusal a letter to me, from Coll. Lewis Kerr, formerly a Major in the Battalion of free people of colour; You may be assured Sir, that these Men, will occupy a portion of my attention, & that due exertions shall be made to acquire for the Government their confidence and Esteem.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble. With great Respect
Henry Dearborn Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. at War Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 15: 1806

Sir,

The Spanish Armed Brig of which we conversed on this morning, has been in this Harbour, for I believe 12 months & I learn from the Mayor of New Orleans that her Crew have committed many Outrages against the good Order and police of this City;– I entreat you therefore to assign for this Vessel a position some where below the Fort at Plaquemines, & to direct the Captain or Commanding Officer, to occupy the Same without delay.

I am Sir

With esteem and Respect

Mr. Brown
Collector

Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans 16: Jany. 1806.

Sir,

Your letter of the 5th ultimo has been received.

The Proclamation, offering a Reward for apprehending Samuel Mason & his associates, being issued in my character as Governor of the Mississippi Territory, I am of Opinion, that Mr. Caston should make his application to my Successor in Office. There can be little doubt, but that John Sutton & James May, were associates of Samuel Mason, and if they were apprehended by Mr. Caston, he unquestionably ought to receive the Reward which was offered. I have written upon this subject to Governor Williams who will I am persuaded on your application, do that which his Powers may admit & Justice shall require.

I am Sir,

Very Respectfully

Edwd. Turner Esqr.
Natchez

Your Hble. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans 16: Jany. 1806

Sir,

While I acted as Governor of the Mississippi Territory, I issued a Proclamation offering a Reward, for the apprehending and bringing to Justice a certain Samuel Mason and his associates who had commited many great & heinous offences.

In consequence of this Proclamation, Mr. Edward Turner of your Territory, as agent for Seth Caston, has exhibited against me a demand for One Hundred Dollars, which he says is claimed by Mr. Caston for apprehending and bringing to Justice, John Sutton & James May who were notoriously and confessedly the associates of Samuel Mason. I have requested Mr. Turner to make his application to your Excellency, in full confidence that if Mr. Caston is entitled to the Reward, you will take measures to have the same paid out of the Treasury of the Mississippi Territory.

It is certainly not Just, that this claim should be maintained against me, in my Individual character.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

His Excellency
Govr. Williams
Mississippi Terry.

With great respect & esteem
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans 17. Jany. 1806

Sir,

I have received yours of the 16: inst relating to the present situation of the Battalion of Volunteers under your Command.

I regret that I am yet unable to find a suitable character for the vacant office of Adjutant to your Battalion and therefore have to request that the eldest first Lieutenant (not commanding a company) be named to act in

that capacity on the 19th. The appointment of a Sergeant Major is properly within your own province.

In consequence of your representations I shall for the present suspend my intention of putting the Battalion thro' any extraordinary evolutions; and accede to your request that the manoeuvre to be performed on the 19th shall be the same as heretofore. But on monday next I shall issue an Order for another review of the Battalion on the 2nd of February, and at the same time, communicate to you the new manoeuvres that will be expected to be performed on that day.

Captain Pollock's suggestion will be taken under consideration; and, in the mean time, I shall be thankfull for your Opinion as to the propriety and expediency of his proposal.

You will be pleased to communicate to Lt. Relp that his resignation is accepted.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Major Du Bourg.

New Orleans Jany. 21: 1806

Sir,

I lately reviewed the Battalion of Orleans Volunteers, & I can assure you Sir, that their appearance and conduct on parade, warrant an Opinion, that in Peace and War, they will deserve well of their Country.

The Native Citizens of the United States who reside in this City have of late manifested a great share of military ardor, and I perceive with satisfaction, that a true spirit of Patriotism annimates many of the young Creoles.

Mr. Moralis has disposed of his Property and awaits the arrival of a Vessel from Mobile to take his Departure.

I have no late intelligence of the movements of the Marquis of Casa Calvo. During his residence here, he certainly gave currency to a Report, that a portion of Louisiana would soon pass from the United States; and I learn by a Gentleman lately from Oppelousas, that to such of our Citizens as had visited the Marquis on the Occockasaw, he continued to hold out assurances, that the Country West of the Mississippi would be acquired by Spain, either by Negociation or force.

I have the honor to be Sir,

The Honble. With Respect & Esteem
James Madison Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans 23: Jany. 1806

Sir,

Mr. Benjamin Morgan a zealous American and honest Man was elected on the 21st inst. a member of the House of Representatives of this Territory.

The inclosed Return will shew you the state of the Poll, as well as the great degree of political apathy which prevails in this quarter.

The French Consul Mr. Deforguess accompanied by Coll. Tousard arrived on yesterday.

I am Sir

The Honble. With esteem & Respect
James Madison Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 24: 1806.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of a statement made me on oath, by Stephen a free Black man;— I do not credit it in whole; I have however no doubt, but that the free people of colour have been tamper'd with, and that some of them are devoted to the Spanish Interest.

Mr. Moralis is yet in this City & should I not on to-morrow learn that his preparations for departure are in forwardness, I shall remind him of the President's Orders & add, that a compliance therewith will be expected in the course of the present month.

Good Order prevails in this City & I believe thro'out the Territory;— my vigilance shall be unceasing, & I pray you to be assured that the Public Peace & safety will be maintained.

I am Sir

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

With very great Respect
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 25: 1805.

Sir,

I have it in command from the President of the United States to direct that all those Persons holding Commissions or retained in the Service of His Catholic Majesty should quit the Territory of Orleans as soon as possible.

The Marquis of Casa Calvo being absent I have thought proper to communicate the Presidents Order to you & I must ask the favour of you to make it known immediately to the Persons whom it comprehends.

As it has been represented to me that there are among the Spanish Officers now in this Territory some who have

been permitted to retire from Service on account of old age or Infirmity & others who have sent forward to Madrid their Resignations but have not yet received intelligence of the acceptance thereof by His Catholic Majesty, I will agree that these Gentlemen may upon giving such assurances as I deem proper and right, remain here untill the further Orders of the President can be known.

I have the honor to be Sir,

With sentiments of respect

Coll Don Jose Martinez) Your mo: Obt. Servt.
de Orosa Sargento) Wm. C. C. Claibórne

New Orleans 25: Jany. 1806

Sir,

In the course of the conversation, I had the Honor to hold with you, a few days since, you were pleased to say, that you had transmitted to the Vice Roy of Mexico, the amount of the debt due by his Catholic Majesty to certain Citizens of this Territory, and that he (the Vice Roy) had received instructions to forward money to this City, for the purpose of discharging the same. Should therefore the *money* arrive here, before the Spanish Agent is accredited in this City by the President of the United States I shall lose no time in forwarding to you at Pensacola a Blank Passport, in which you may insert, the name of such Person as you may think proper to vest with authority to receive *it,* and to liquidate & discharge the aforesaid Debt.

I esteem it a duty again to remind you of the Order of the President of the United States, which was communicated to you in my Letter of the 11th inst., and to add that the departure from this Territory of yourself

& the Gentlemen attached to your Department, will be expected in the course of the present month.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Very Respectfully

The Honble. Your Hble. Servt.

Jno. V. Moralis Wm. C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

These are to require, that the Honable. John V. Morales an Officer in the service of his Catholic Majesty, (together with his family and Suite) on a Voyage to Pensacola, be permitted to pass without interruption thro' the Territory of Orleans;— and I desire that such citizens of the United States as may meet Mr. Morales on his said Voyage, will extend to him evidences of their friendly attention.

Given under my hand & the Seal of the Territory, at New Orleans On the 27th day of January in the year 1806 and in the thirtieth year of American Independance.

W. C. C. Claibornne

By William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

These are to require that Don Gilberto Leonard an officer in Service of his Catholic Majesty (together with those persons accompanying him) be permitted to pass thro' the Territory of Orleans on their Route to Baton Rouge.

Given under my Hand & the Seal of the Territory, at New Orleans On the 27: day of January in the year 1806, and in the thirtieth year of American Independance.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 27: 1806.

Sir,

Agreeably to your request, I have the honor to enclose you a Passport for yourself, and for the Gentlemen who may accompany you as also one for Mr Leonard, & the Gentlemen destined for Baton Rouge. If the Vessels in which you are to embark are the property of His Catholic Majesty, they certainly will not be molested or exposed to any of those dangers of which you are pleased to express your apprehension. If they are private property, it is not in my power to exempt them from seizure, provided there are legal claims against them.

You will much Oblige me if you would furnish me with the names of those Gentlemen who you say have retired from the Service of His Catholic Majesty.

Wishing you a pleasant Voyage, and the enjoyment of health and happiness[1]

I have the Honor to be
With great respect Sir,
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Jno. V. Morales.

To James Madison.

New Orleans Jany. 28: 1806.

Sir,

The enclosure No. 1 is a copy of a Petition from sundry Merchants of this City, stating that a considerable Debt is due to them, by His Catholic Majesty, and praying that Mr. Morales might be permitted to leave in this City an Agent "for the purpose of settling the remaining accounts of the Spanish Treasury with the Inhabitants of this Territory."

[1] Morales left New Orleans for Pensacola February 1. He had delayed his departure by all sorts of excuses. Claiborne's courtesy in expelling him is quite characteristic.

Upon the subjects of this petition I held a conversation with Mr. Morales; he told me that his King owed to the Citizens of this Territory between three and four Hundred thousand Dollars, that the accounts had been transmitted to the Vice Roy of Mexico, who was instructed to forward to this City, the amount in cash, & should the same arrive, (said Moralis) & no agent here to receive it, the Creditors would experience inconvenience, Since in that case, they would be obliged to repair to Pensacola, to receive payment.

Finding therefore that there was no prospect of an Agent, rendering the Creditors any Service, unless indeed money should arrive, I addressed a letter (of which No. 2 is a copy) to Morales, & informed him that in the event of the arrival of money in the Mississippi destined for the payment of the Kings debts in this Territory, I would forward to him a blank passport, in which he was at liberty, to insert the name of such person as he should authorize to receive and pay away the same: This communication led to a correspondence of which No. 3, 4 & 5 are copies.

The enclosures marked A & B are copies of the passports furnished Mr. Morales & Mr. Leonard.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

With great Respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 29: 1806

Sir,

The enclosure marked A is a copy of a statement made to me on oath, by Stephen a free black man: I do not suppose it true thro'out; there is however no doubt, but that the free people of colour have been tampered with,

and that some of them are devoted to the Spanish Interest.

In consequence of Stephens information, and the residence in this City of many disorderly and mischievous persons, I thought proper to detach for duty every night a Company of Militia, & have on this day issued a general order, of which the enclosed is a Copy. This Militia Guard will be furnished with amunition and Ball from the public Stores; & care shall be taken to render them usefull to the civil authority in the preservation of good order.

I am Sir,

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

With Esteem & Respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison.

New Orleans Jany. 30: 1806.

Sir,

Finding that the public Business presses very much upon me, I have proposed to Mr. Graham, that he should conduct the internal correspondence of the Territory, & attend particularly to communications of local concern; in Order that I may be at liberty myself to attend more especially to my correspondence with your Department; to the Business of the Legislature, and to the Organization of the Militia. To this proposal, Mr. Graham made no objection, & declared his willingness to do whatever was in his power to promote the Public Good.

In acquainting you with this arrangement, by which the labour and responsability of the *Secretary* are greatly augmented, I cannot omit again suggesting to you, that Justice requires an encrease of the compensation of that officer.

In recommending an encrease of the Secretary's Salary, I cannot but express a wish also that the Judges may not be forgotten for from the cheapness of money in this place, it is impossible for these Gentlemen to live as becomes their Official Standing upon the compensation now allotted to them.

I am Sir

The Honble. With Esteem and Respect
James Madison Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the French Consul

New Orleans Jany. 30th 1806.

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your Letter enclosing a copy of the Exequator granted you by the President of the United States, and shall of consequence consider you as the Representative of your Nation here.

I beg you to believe Sir, that it gives me great pleasure to see you among us & that I shall on all occasions be anxious to aid you as far as I am able in promoting the mutual Commerce of our two Countries, which as you justly observe are strongly bound to each other by the ties of Interest & affection.

Be pleased to accept the assurances of my High Respect & Consideration.

Mons. Desforgues W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jany. 30: 1806

Sir,

Your letter of the 14: Ulto. via New York, reached me on yesterday about Noon.

The objects to which it related, immediately commanded my attention, & my friend Doctor Watkins at my

request, waited upon Mr. Laveau Trudeau, the late Surveyor General, and made particular Enquiries as to the public Documents in his possession. Mr. Trudeau stated that he had retained the Original concessions & Surveys of Lands lying in that part of Louisiana, which is at this time under the Government of the United States, but that most of those which related to Lands lying in West Florida, he had delivered to a Mr. Pintardo, who had taken them to Pensacola; but the Papers retained, by Mr. Trudeau considered as his private property, & believing they might be usefull to him, he had declined delivering them to the Spanish Agents, nor would he carry them from this Territory, I shall however consult with Mr. Brown as to the legal & proper measures for gaining possession of those papers & Documents, but they will in no event be permitted to be be carried out of the Territory.

With respect to the papers said to be retained by Don Andre, the late Secretary of this Province, Mr. Trudeau is of Opinion that they are of no importance to the United States; I will however make further enquiries, and take such steps as the information received shall justify.

In justice to myself, I beg leave to state that I long since applied to the Marquis for the Documents said to be in the hands of the Secretary, who informed me, that they had no relation to "the domain and Sovereignty of Louisiana," & added that most of the Archives had been destroyed by a fire which happened some years ago, that those preserved were delivered to the American Commissioners, or were lodged in the Several Notary's Offics in the City, which were now subject to the Orders of the Territorial Government. With respect to the Papers in the possession of Mr. Trudeau, they also had not escaped my observation; both him and Mr. Morales had been applied to on the subject, the first considered them as his private property, and the latter declared that the Marquis of Casa Calvo, in his character as Commission-

er, could alone deliver them; the application from me was made soon after the departure of the Marquis from this City. I had also (previous to the receipt of your letter) consulted Mr. James Brown as to the legal Steps proper to be taken, either to acquire possession of the Papers in the hands of Mr. Trudeau, or to prevent their removal from the Territory; Mr. Brown was about commencing a process, but from the information received from Mr. Trudeau, it is for the present delayed.

I am Sir

The Honble. James Madison Secy. of State

With Esteem and Respect Your Hble. Servt. Wm. C. C. Claiborne

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New Orleans Jany. 30th 1806.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a Return of the first, second and fourth Regiments of Militia. Incomplete returns from the other Regiments have also been received, but it is not in my power at present, to state to you the effective force of the Territory; I hope however very soon to be enabled to discharge that duty, as the Adjutant General is at this period, busily engaged in Organizing the Militia of the distant Counties.

New Orleans furnishes the first and Second Regiments, and two Companies of the fourth Regiment, which together with the Battalion of Orleans Volunteers & the Troop of Horse (the returns of which have been heretofore forwarded) constitute the Military Strength of the City.

To Henry Dearborn

New Orleans 1st Febry. 1806

Sir,

I this day, accompanied by the District Attorney Mr. Brown, visited Mr. Trudeau and conversed with him relative to the papers and Documents in his possession;– Mr. Trudeau was told that they were deemed of importance to (the) United States, and in no event would be (permit)-ted to be removed from this Territory; if * * * * I, Mr. Trudeau, would take the Oath (of allegiance) to the United States, the papers should * * * be left with him for safe keeping;– * * * * Mr. Trudeau readily assented, * * * * determination * * * Manuscript torn * * * * conjunction with the Mayor of the City, I have taken measures to find out the extent of the plan communicated be Gerel and the names of the Persons concerned. In the meantime, nothing shall be wanting on my part to give security to the City, & to discourage by my vigilance, any mischievous machinations. I continue on Duty every night a full company of city Militia; they are quartered in a Public Building near the Government House, and for their comfortable accomodation, I hazarded the expenditure of some public money, which I hope may not be disapproved: The expenditures will be very inconsiderable.

I do not credit in whole the statement of Mr. Gerel;– There is no doubt however but that the free people of colour have been tampered with; but I do not suppose, they are as generally disaffected to the United States, as Mr. Gerel represents them.

I enclose you a Copy of my Orders to the Officers commanding the City Guard.

I am Sir,

With Respect & Esteem
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble.
Henry Dearborn
Secy. at War

To Col. Sargento

New Orleans 3rd Febry. 1806.

Sir,

Since your letter of the 26th Ultimo, I have been impatiently expecting, that you would have announced to me, that you as well as the other Spanish officers in this City, had received the instructions of His Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo to depart;– Your letter induced me to suppose that such Instructions were daily expected; – I presume they have not arrived, and must therefore again propose to you, to make known to the Gentlemen concerned, the Orders of the President of the United States which I had the honor of communicating to you on the Ulto. Should you decline doing so, it will impose upon me, the necessity of issuing an Order to each Individual retained in the service of His Catholic Majesty, to quit the Territory of Orleans.

With very great Respect
I am Sir

Coll. Orosa Sargento

Your mo. Obt. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

To Mr. Fromentin

New Orleans 5: Febry. 1806

Sir,

I received your letter of the 2nd inst. and am very much Obliged to you for the information which it contains. The same feelings of Humanity, & zeal which have induced you to make known to me the Cruelties practised under the pretext of Law in the County of Iberville, will I hope induce you to assist me in bringing to punishment those to whom they are attributable.

I do not exactly understand, how the Judge of the County is responsible for the cruel treatment of Prison-

ers, as under the Law the sheriff is the officer who has the custody of Prisoners. You will therefore oblige me if you would give me in writing a more particular detail of the proceedings in the County of Iberville for I am convinced from your letter that it is proper for me to interfere:– But I wish not to act, without a full Knowledge of the transactions.

I am Sir

With great respect

Mr. Fromentin Your Hble. Servt.

W. C. C. Claiborne

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 6th Febry. 1806.

Sir,

On the 10th of Jany. I had the honor to address a letter to your Excellency, (an Extract of which, I here enclose) & supposing you at that time, to be some where in the vicinity of Adais, I entrusted it to the care of Captain Ross, with instructions to deliver it in person. I had hoped by this proceeding, to have saved your Excellency the Inconvenience of a long Journey;[1] But by your return to this City I am sorry to perceive that Captain Ross has not been so fortunate as to meet you; and it therefore becomes necessary, that I now urge the Orders which I have received from my Government, relating to the immediate Departure from this Territory of all the officers & other Persons retained in the service of His Catholic Majesty.

The Orders of the President of the United States were communicated to Mr. Morales & to Coll. Orosa; the former has complied, & the latter has promised to conform thereto. Before I conclude this letter a sense of duty,

[1]Casa Calvo returned to New Orleans on February 4.

compels me to express a wish, that the Departure of your Excellency may not be delayed beyond a few days.

I take this occasion to renew to your Excellency, the assurances of my very respectfull consideration.

His Excellency W. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 6. Febry. 1806

Sir,

It being represented to me, that there are yet remaining in the possession of Don Andre, the former Secretary for Louisiana "Sundry Archives, papers & Documents relative to the domain & Sovereignty of Louisiana & its Dependencies," I sollicit your Excellency to direct that the same may be delivered to the Secretary for this Territory Mr. Graham, who is duly authorized by me to receive them. This application to your Excellency is made with the more confidence, since I am persuaded of your desire to execute with good faith the Treaty of Cession, the second article of which stipulates that "the Archives, papers and Documents relative to the Domain & Sovereignty of Louisiana, and its dependencies, shall be left in the possession of the commissaries of the United States."

Accept assurances of my great Respect and Esteem

His Excellency W. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New Orleans 6: Febry. 1806

Sir,

Late on the evening of the 4th inst: the Marquis of Casa Calvo arrived in this City from Nacogdoches via Nachitoches, which last place he left on the 22nd Ultimo

& having passed by Water, he was not met by Captain Ross to whom my Dispatch of the 10th of January was committed.

I have on this morning, addressed to the Marquis a letter, of which the enclosure is a Copy.

Mr. Moralis & his suite left this City for Pensacola on the first instant.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

The Honble. James Madison Secy. of State

With great respect & esteem Your Hble. Servt. W. C. C. Claiborne

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To James Madison

New Orleans 7th Febry. 1806.

Sir,

I learn from Captn. Turner, that the Marquis of Casa Calvo did not visit Adais, nor is it understood, that he make Enquiries concerning the Posts, of which he spoke to me.

The proposition for a Military Gentleman to accompany the Marquis to Adais, came from me, but since the arrangement was not approved, I am well pleased that the Visit was not made,

I am Sir,

With respect and Esteem

The Honble. James Madison Secy. of State

Your Hble. Servt. Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 8th Febry. 1806.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's answer to my communication of the 6th inst.

I do not doubt, nor can I discuss the propriety of the

Orders of the President of the United States; they serve as a rule for my conduct, & on the present occasion, the only duty devolving upon me is, to see them executed. I must therefore require, that your Excellency, & all other Persons holding commissions or retained in the service of His Catholic Majesty should quit the Territory of Orleans as soon as possible. Permit me to repeat the wish that "your departure may not be delayed beyond a few days" & to tender you such services as may be in my power to facilitate your Embarkation.[1]

I pray your Excellency to accept assurances of my great respect & Esteem.

His Excellency Wm. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 8: Febry. 1806

Sir,

In a letter to your Excellency of the 11th of July last I had the honor to advise you of the intention of the President of the United States to send a party up the Red River with a View of acquiring geographical and other Scientific information, and requested from your Excellency a passport for the citizens of the United States who should be employed on that expedition. To this request you politely and readily acceded, and promised to furnish the passport whenever it might be desired. I have now the inform you that the expedition, under the direction of the Honorable William Dunbar, will be conducted by Mr. Thomas Freeman; and the party will move from Natchez in a short time, and I have therefore to solicit your Excellency's passport for that gentleman, and those who may accompany him.

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[1]Casa Calvo vigorously objected to being sent out of Louisiana.

I renew to your Excellency the assurance that the object of this mission is exclusively scientific, and entirely unconnected with any Political Views unfriendly to the interests of his Catholic Majesty in that country: I therefore trust that the temporary differences now subsisting between Our Nations will not be suffered to Prevent Mr. Freeman and his party from receiving that hospitable treatment which, from the nature of their business, they are entitled to, according to the usages of all Nations as well in War as in Peace.

I pray your Excellency to accept assurances of my great respect and Esteem.

His Excellency W. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 11 Febry. 1806,

Sir,

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excelly's Letter of yesterday.

The Order of the President of the United States is not as you are pleased to consider it, either an act of Violence or an insult to the King your master. On the contrary the residence of so many Spanish Officers in this Territory having been permitted by the President so long beyond the time prescribed by Treaty for their Departure is a proof of his Respect for His Catholic Majesty, and of his liberal indulgence towards those employed in his service:— An indulgence which I am sorry to perceive is not sufficiently appreciated by all who experienced it.

Without entering therefore into further discussion with your Excellency, on the Subject of the Orders of the President of the United States, I shall proceed to execute them, and must require that you depart on or

before the 15th day of the present month, and that you be accompanied or speedily followed by all Persons now in this Territory, who hold commissions, or are retained in the Service of Spain.

I renew to your Excellency, the assurances of my respectful Consideration.

His Excellency W. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

To James Madison

New Orleans 12: Febry. 1806

Sir,

Captain Ross returned to this City on this morning, & I now enclose for your perusal a Copy of his Report to me.

I have the honor to be Sir,

The Honble. With great respect,
James Madison Your Hble. Servt.
Secy. of State Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

New Orleans 12 Febry. 1806

Sir,

I observe with pleasure, that the Militia generally of this City perform with fidelity & cheerfulness, the duty which is exacted of them. I feel no difficulty, in making my Militia Appointments; the Citizens generally evidence a disposition to accept of Military Appointments and the Creoles in Particular.

I may be mistaken, but I am inclined to think that the respectable Inhabitants of this City & its vicinity are becoming much attached to the American Government.

The Adjutant General (Mr. Hopkins) writes me from Nachitoches, under the date of the 28th Ultimo, that he

experiences much difficulty in organizing the Militia, in our Western Frontier, but that he hopes soon to accomplish the object.

I have already forwarded you accurate Returns of the Militia in this City & it's vicinity.

With great respect and esteem

The Honble. I am Sir
Henry Dearborn Your Hble. Servt.
The Secy. at War W. C. C. Claiborne

To William Dunbar

New Orleans 12 Febry. 1806

Sir,

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 31st Ultimo — and accordingly made application to the Marquis of Caso Calvo for the promised passport, which he refused to grant as you will perceive by the Copy of his answer which is enclosed. Under the existing circumstances between the two Countries, it remains with you to act on the occasion as you shall think proper.

Accept assurances of my great respect and sincere Esteem.

The Honble. W. C. C. Claiborne
William Dunbar

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 12th Febry. 1806

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Passport for yourself and family and to pray your acceptance of my best Wishes for your health and happiness.[1]

His Excellency W. C. C. Claiborne
The Marquis of Casa Calvo

[1] The Marquis left New Orleans on February 15.

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Territory of Orleans, and Commander in Chief of the Militia thereof.

These are to require, that his Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo, together with his family and suite, who on their return to the Dominions of His Catholic Majesty propose to pass by the Bayou St. John be permitted to proceed without interruption thro' the Territory aforesaid:— And I desire that such Citizens of the United States, as may meet with his Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo, on his voyage, would extend to him, evidences of their friendly attention.

Given under my Hand & the Seal of the Territory, this 12th day of Febry. 1806 and in the thirtieth Year of American Independence.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans 13: Febry. 1806

Sir,

Since my communication of the 6th inst. a Duplicate of which goes by this mail, Several letters of which the enclosures from No. 1 to No. — are copies, have passed between the Marquis of Caso Calvo and myself, on the subject of the departure of the Spanish officers from this Territory.

It is understood that the Marquis proposes to proceed by way of the Lakes to East Florida;

I have the honor to be Sir,
With great respect

The Honble.
James Madison
Secy. of State

Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans 13: Febry. 1806

Sir,

Application having lately been made to me by Mr. Dunbar to obtain from the Marquis of Casa Calvo, a passport for the Gentlemen who are about to ascend the Red River, under your Orders, I addressed to him a letter of which the enclosure A is a copy, & received the answer marked B.

I have informed Mr. Dunbar of the Marquis's refusal which I presume may occasion for the present, the postponement of the expedition.

My Official Letters to the Secretary of State will acquaint you with the state of things in this quarter.

If I am not greatly mistaken, the public sentiment here, has of late undergone a change, highly favorable to the American Government.

Natives of Louisiana are for the most part attached to the United States, & I am persuaded that most of the Men of Property, would (in the event of War) rally around the American Standard.

I still hope you may be enabled to draw to an honorable & amicable close our negociations with Spain, but if this should not happen I should indeed be gratified, if an Opportunity was offered me to evince in the field, my devotion to the Interest & Honor of my Country.

With Sentiments the most respectful
I have the honor to be,

Thomas Jefferson
President of the United States

Your faithful friend
W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

[1] New Orleans 17 March 1806.

Sir,

In an officail Letter of this date, I informed you of my having drawn on you in favor of D. C. Dean or Order for 250 Dollars, and inclosed the account and Vouchers on which the draught was founded. This is intended as a Letter of advice to accompany said Bills. Mr. Dean was the Bearer of the French Manuscript, & other public Dispatches to the President of the United States.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
With great Respect
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To David C. Dean

New Orleans 17: March 1806.

Sir,

You will proceed by the nearest and best way by Land to the City of Washington & deliver to the Secretary at War, the Tin Case; which is directed to the President of the United States.

You will keep an account of your expenses; & be carefull to confine them within the limits of a prudent economy.

I can promise you nor particular sum for your services; a reasonable compensation for your trouble, will be made you by the Secretary of War & of which he must be the Judge.

You are furnished with $170 for which you will account to the Secretary at War.

It is expected that you will pursue your journey with

[1] Beginning of Volume IV.

diligence & that you will take the greatest care of the Dispatches committed to your care.

You will inform me from time to time of your progress. Wishing you an agreeable Journey.

I am Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

New Orleans 17: March 1806

Sir,

The Original French manuscript mentioned to you by Doctor Sibley, is now in my possession — and in Obedience to the instructions contained in your letter to me of the 19 of July last, it will be forwarded by land to the Seat of Government. Mr. Dean, a young man in whom I have confidence, will take charge of the Packet, and will leave this on to morrow.

Doctor Sibley not having furnished me with a copy of the manuscript, I have had one taken — and, in order to pay for the same, and to make also a small advance to Mr. Dean, I have this day drawn on you for $250 Dollars payable at five days sight to David C. Dean, or Order. The Vouchers to support this draft, are enclosed.

I was anxious to forward the manuscript by some safe private conveyance — but none having offered, I thought it my duty to forward it by Express.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your mo. Obt. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

New Orleans 18 March 1806.

Sir,

I have made no agreement with Mr. Dean, in relation to his compensation; I have advanced him One Hundred & Seventy Dollars, & given him an assurance that all his reasonable expenses will be reimbursed him.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans 18 March 1806.

Dear Sir,

By Mr. Dean who goes to the City of Washington, with public dispatches, I do myself the pleasure to transmit you, a map of a part of this Territory; it is the most correct, of any I have seen, and as such is offered for your acceptance.

Mr. Duplantier is now in this City & proposes without delay, to locate a portion of the Lands granted to General Lafayette, we hope to be enabled to procure on the Canal Carondelet One Thousand Acres. Governor Folch is at Mobile engaged in strengthening the Fort at that place, & intriguing with the Indians;– But on these points my communications to the Secretary of War, will give you the particulars.

The Brig Franklin is in the River, & Captain Shaw, and the other Naval Officers have arrived in this City;– The Gun boats from Cumberland & Kentucky have not

come down and I fear they may yet be detained for some time;– the presence of a respectable Force in this City, is essential to the safety of New Orleans;– I suppose that at this time, there cannot be less than two Millions of Dollars in this City, which together with the merchandise in the numerous Private Ware houses, would furnish a rich Booty for a successful Enemy.

With Sentiments of great Respect
I am Dear Sir
Your faithfull friend
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans 18 March 1806

Sir,

I enclose you a copy of a letter which I yesterday received from the Governor General of Cuba, from which it would seem, that the Spanish Government did not expect speedily to adjust with the U. States, the Limits of Louisiana.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans 18: March 1806

Sir,

The enclosed papers will acquaint you with the detention of the Schooner Ann at the Town of Mobile, and of the objection by the Spanish Agents, to the passage of

said Vessel to Fort St. Stephens. I have heretofore written to Governor Folch relative to the Obstructions offered to our Commerce on the Mobile, and deem further communication with him altogether useless.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Brown

New Orleans 18 March 1806

Sir,

In a letter from the Secretary of State of the United States, under date of the 10th of February last I am informed that in the course of last Summer Mr. Morales sent to Pensacola the Records and documents relative to Grants of Lands in Louisiana, which had been in his possession and that of Mr. Ximenes the late Notary of the Government; "I am referred to you" for such further information, on the subject as may be requisite.

In pursuance of the instructions, which I have received from the Secretary of State, I shall endeavor by an Official application to acquire the possession of those Documents, but previous to making this Application, I should wish to learn, in what they consisted: & whether the possession of all, or what particular part of these Documents would be found usefull to the United States; any information therefore which you could give me on these points will be thankfully received.

I have the honor to be Sir,

With Respect & Esteem

Your mo: Obt. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans 18: March 1806

Dear Sir,

In a letter to the Secretary of State, I have given the particulars of the stoppage at Mobile, of the American Schooner Ann, bound to Fort St. Stephens with provisions for our Troops. I am firmly impressed with an Opinion, that the Spanish Government is not disposed to extend towards the United States either a Just or respectful conduct; I further believe, that to obtain for our fellow Citizens a free & uninterrupted use of the Waters of the Mobile, we must have recourse to force & perhaps the sooner this expedient is resorted to, the better.[1] In an official Letter to the Secretary of State, I acquainted him of the opposition made by the Spanish Agents, to the passage of the Mail of the United States, by the way of Mobile.

With Sentiments of great Respect
I am Dear Sir
Your faithfull friend
W. C. C. Claiborne

To Mr. Verrett

New Orleans March 22nd 1806

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 20th instant, and sincerely regret that your ill state of health, has compelled you to relinquish your Seat in the House of Rep-

[1]Claiborne was not in accord with the waiting policy of Jefferson in connection with the claim to West Florida. The interests of the people of the Tombigby Valley prompted him to urge expulsion.

resentatives of this Territory. The necessary arrangements shall be taken, to supply the vacancy, occasioned by your resignation.

With great respect
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Address to the Legislature of the Territory of Orleans.

New Orleans 24 March 1806.

Fellow Citizens of the Legislative
Council and of the House of Representatives.

I cannot deny myself the pleasure of congratulating you on the prosperous situation of the Territory, whose interest is more immediately committed to your care.

I surely do not mistake when I observe.– that our Citizens have great cause to be content with their destiny, and to unit in greatful thanks to the beneficent Ruler of the Univers, that this portion of his Kingdom is permitted to enjoy so great a share of felicity. To the industrious Cultivator, a genial climate and a fertile Soil yield an abundant harvest,– To the enterprising merchant, an extensive and free Commerce Secures a liberal increase of fortune,– and to the ingenious mechanic, an Opulent and growing population ensures lucrative employment. While a just government Protects the rights of all – and the laws impose no other restraints, than those which the general good require.

If some inconveniences attended the sudden political changes through which we have passed – let them be attributed to causes which could not then be controuled – and while we felicitate ourselves that these inconveniences have not been more considerable let us endeavour by Judicious arrangements, entirely to do them away.

The late Legislative Council did much for the preser-

vation of Order in Society, and for the advancement of the general weal: but much as that Assembly did, still much is left for the Present Legislature to accomplish; and I persuade myself that the happiest results will attend its deliberations.

In Representative Governments, where the interest and wishes of the people cannot but be know and respected – and we have the peculiar advantage of adapting our municipal regulations to the existing state of things, and of making provision for those vicissitudes which time and an increased population, invariably produce. In the infancy of our political career, we should consider our Laws as experiments, and they should undergo such improvements as reason and experience may suggest.

I have supposed Gentlemen that among the various objects of your attention, a revision of the Judiciary System will be considered of primary importance. It is liable to exceptions, and is not, I fear, well adapted to the present state of the Territory. In adverting to the criminal code, an Omission is observable, which the legislature ought to remedy; no satisfactory provision is made for the employment of such offenders as may be sentenced to hard labor; it would indeed, be best that convicts should pass in obscurity, the time which they are to pass in disgrace: Solitary confinement invites to reflection, and tends to correct vicious habits – while an exposure to the public view, checks the return of moral principle, and palsies every struggle of pride to regain a rank Once lost in Society. I could not therefore but approve a law which would provide for the erection of a Penitentiary House, and prescribe suitable regulations for the employment and management of Convicts; but as I doubt whether our pecuniary resources would enable us, at this period, without inconvenience, to meet the expense attendant on a measure of this kind, I will not venture to

press it; as connected with this subject, permit me further to remark, that a wise and humane policy, dictates the adoption of every expedient which may tend to the prevention of offences. That description of People, commonly called vagrants – persons of ill fame, who have no ostensible means of procuring a livelihood, and frequently no fixed places of abode, should be induced, by the force of law to abandon their idle and mischievous pursuits: pursuits which have an immediate tendency to disturb the public peace, and which lead by inevitable consequences to the commission of crimes. Of the means which have been adopted by many well regulated communities, for the purpose of reclaiming and restraining this class of people, and which, unfortunately are to be found in every Country, is that of temporary confinement to some laborious occupation, by which the indolent and dissolute are at the same time prevented from annoying Society by their mischievous example, and made to defray the expenses of their subsistence. Before I draw your attention from the criminal code, allow me to suggest the expediency of passing a particular act which shall prescribe the punishment of offences committed by Slaves, and provide for their summary trial;– Such an act is particularly necessary, and I flatter myself it may be so framed as to enforce all that discipline which our situation requires without being marked with any peculiar features of Severity.

I am persuaded, Gentlemen that the Company which is incorporated under the "act for improving the inland Navigation of the Territory of Orleans" will greatly facilitate the means of our internal commercial intercourse. I am well assured that the waters which lead from the Counties of Attackapas and Oppelousas to the River Mississippi, may at small expense, be made of convenient navigation; and to this object I trust the Company will soon turn their attention. It is expected that the existing

law will prove commensurate to the views of the Legislature, but it nevertheless is recommended by your careful perusal – since it embraces a subject of the first importance to our Constituents – and whatever can be done to promote their convenience in this particular, should be speedily adopted.

I have noticed that a due portion of care is not bestowed on the roads in the interior of the Territory, and that the levees, in some places, are also neglected. These require Legislative interference, and are worthy of your attention.

The importance of a Road on the Bank of the Mississippi from New Orleans to the fort at Plaquemines, cannot but be perceived, and of its practicability, there can be no doubt. In stemming the current of the Mississippi, between Pleaquemine and this City, Vessels often experience much detention, but if this road was established and kept in repair, Vessels would be facilitated in their ascent, and by assistance from land might be towed to their destined Port with certainty, in a few days. The object is of so much importance that I could not forbear recommending it to your consideration; I am persuaded that the measure would prove of general utility, and highly serviceable to the City of New Orleans, whose welfare is intimately connected with that of the Territory.

It is with regret I have to inform you — that the law passed by the late legislative Council, entitled "An act to establish an University in the Territory of Orleans," does not promise to advance the interest of literature, with the rapidity which was contemplated; but assisted by your liberal patronage, I persuade myself that the good purposes for which it was designed, may be speedily effected. The doctrine which prevailed in an ancient republic of Greece with respect to their youth, is one, which in my Opinion, ought always to be cherished by a free people! The youth should be considered as the

property of the State, their welfare should constitute a primary care of the Government — and those in power should esteem it an incumbent duty, to make such provisions for the improvement of the minds and morals of the rising generation, as will enable them to appreciate the blessings of self Government, and to preserve those rights which are destined for their inheritance. I am one of those who admire the plan of education adopted by some of the States of the American Union; that of establishing a school in every neighborhood and supporting it by a general tax on the Society. I should indeed be happy to see a similar policy pursued in this Territory, and a Tax which would bear alike on every individual, in proportion to his wealth, levied for the purpose. I need not I am sure, add any thing further on this subject— Its importance will be felt by fathers of families, and acknowledged by every citizen who is attached to a free, representative Government.

In adverting to the acts and Ordinances of Congress which furnish the constitution of the Territory you will perceive "that all future Elections are to be regulated by the Legislature; and that the number of Representatives shall be determined, and the apportionment made in the manner prescribed in the Ordinance" In the discharge therefore of your duties, this subject will, of course, be taken into consideration. There are doubtless, other objects of legislation which will present themselves to your reflection; among which a more general inspection law — and one which shall embrace the article of Cotton raised in the Territory and destined for exportation, will not, I presume, escape observation. Some adequate and permanent provision for the support of the poor is wanting:— Of this description of Citizens it is our good fortune to have but few; a well regulated Society however, should never omit directing the means of Providing for the care and comfort of the distressed and unfortunate.

The hospital in this City, which remains an honorable monument to the memory of its founder, Don Andre Almunester, is not supposed to be of that general utility to which, by legislative aid, it might be made conducive. This institution was formerly, in part, under the superintendence of the provisional Governor; but the change of government has so far altered the state of things, as to make it doubtful what public functionary can, at this time, legally interfere.

The treasurer of the Territory will lay before you an account of the receipts and expenditures, up to the present day; from which you will perceive that our resources have hitherto been sufficient to meet the public demands. To provide however for the increased expences which will necessarily attend our present form of Government, some addition to the existing taxes will be found indispensible, but this addition need not be considerable if our disbursements are kept within the limits of a prudent economy.

Fellow-Citizens of the Legislative Council,)
and of the House of Representatives:)

I feel pleasure in informing you,— That much has been done towards the Organization of the Militia; and I hope in a short time to effect its completion. I am not aware of any material defects in our present system; but if there be such, I doubt not your readiness to apply a corrective. The fines for non-attendance, at company, Battalion and Regimental musters are, I fear, too moderate to enforce punctuality; nor do I think the punishment which the law permits to be inflicted for improper conduct on parade, sufficiently severe, to command a due degree of military subordination. At all times, Gentlemen, your attention should be called to the Militia; but

more especially at a period like the present, when the United States, of which this Territory forms an inseperable part, are experiencing, from Foreign Powers, injuries, which, if not promptly redressed, must be avenged.

If a disposition on the part of the American Government to be just, should inspire the Rulers of Nations, of whose conduct we complain, with a like disposition, we may yet hope to keep aloof from the controversies of Europe, and to enjoy that tranquility which virtuous Statesmen know how to appreciate. Guided by the Genius of an enlightened Magistrate — no less beloved by his fellow Citizens, than devoted to their interest; supported by the wisdom of a Congress, whose members owe their elevation to that impression which virtue and talents had made on a free people, we may confidently conclude, that every honrable effort will be used, peaceably to accommodate existing differences. But let not love of peace be mistaken for a fear of War! Wrongs persisted in, will awaken the Spirit, and develop the energies of our great, free, and growing Nation! energies which, in self defense, are irresistable, and of which, in furnishing the means of annoyance to our enemies, those who are acquainted with the population and resources of United America, can alone form a just estimate.

But in Peace, or in war— the good people of this Territory will do their duty! If the former—by cultivating and improving the arts which lead to human happiness. If the latter — by extending, when called upon, our feeble, but unanimous support to our numerous Brethern of the United States — with whom and with us, there is but one Interest, and one Country!

I pray you, Fellow Citizens of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Representatives, to receive my best wishes for an agreeable session, and to be assured

of my faithful co-operation in whatever may contribute to the prosperity of the Territory of Orleans.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans 25 March 1806

Sir,

I fear the Garrison of Fort Stoddart will experience serious Inconveniences for the want of supplies; Judge Toulmin,[1] who has just arrived from the Tombigby, informs me, that at the period of his Departure, there was at Fort Stoddard, 25 Barrels of flour, 8 Barrles of Beef, & a small quantity of Spirits; he adds that when this is gone, the Troops must suffer, unless supplies are sent from this place, or Natchez, for that in the County of Washington, he believes the Citizens will themselves experience a scarcity of provisions.

It is confidently reported, that the Spaniards at Mobile are intriguing with the Indians, & that a quantity of Powder has been distributed; I have acquainted Governor Williams of these facts, & suggested to him the propriety of sending without delay a confidential person to the Nation; the absence of the Agent Mr. Dinsmore at this particular crisis, is unfortunate he is an active, faithful officer, & has great influence with the Chactaws; I hope he may soon be at his Post.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Hble. Servt.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

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[1]For sketch of Toulmin see Encyclopedia of Mississippi History, Vol. II, p. 793.

Gentlemen of the House
of Representatives

New Orleans 26 March 1806

I lay before you a copy of a letter, which has been addressed to me by the President of the United States, from which it appears, that there is a vacancy of One member in the Legislative Council:— It will therefore be the duty of the House of Representatives to nominate two persons, of whom the President may appoint One with the advice of the Senate of the United States.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Casa Calvo

New Orleans 29: March 1806.

Sir,

It is believed that your Excellency has taken measures for making a settlement on Trinity River—contrary to the expectation which has been formed, that, untill the limits between the Spanish Territories and those of the United States shall be settled, things would be permitted to remain in their present State. I have it therefore in charge from the President of the United States to inform your Excellency, that this proceeding is viewed as inconsistent with the dictates of mity between our two Countries; and that if the settlement meditated, or any other, shall be attempted in the disputed Territory, the Government of the United States will consider itself justified in pursuing any measures that may be necessary to break it up.[1]

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to your Excellency, the assurances of my high consideration.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

[1] A fort had been erected on the Trinity River and garrisoned by a band of two hundred cavalry.

To James Madison

New Orleans 2nd April 1806.

Sir,

As the situation of this Country is some what peculiar, perhaps the subject of the inclosed letters deserves the consideration of our Government. I am myself at a loss to know why Mr. Desforgues has not put the business upon the footing I proposed to him—or made to me some other proposition than the one contained in his letter. His silence may be considered by some as a suspicious circumstance I would therefore wish to be instructed by you how I am to act in case he should continue to decline sending me a list of the French Citizens who have reported themselves to him. As in some degree connected with this subject it may be proper to mention to you that some of our best Lawyers conceive that those of the Inhabitants of this Country who have not taken the Oath of allegiance (and they are by the bye much the greater number) could not under the existing laws be tried for Treason if they were to take arms against us in the event of a War between Spain and the United States.

I am Sir
With Esteem & Respect
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans 3rd April 1806.

Dear Sir,

On yesterday the House of Representatives, recommended as Councillors Dominique Bouligny, and Julian Poydrass; Mr. Bouligny is a young man of sense, and

supports an amiable Character; But in my Opinion, Mr. Poydrass is among the most deserving men in this Territory; He was President of the late Legislative Council, and acquitted himself with great credit; has has been a uniform friend to the American Government, and among its best supporters in this quarter. The Councellors now in Commission, all reside in & near this City, as also does Mr. Bouligny; But Mr. Poydrass is an Inhabitant of Point Coupee, & from his local situation, as well as personal merits, his appointment would I am sure give general satisfaction.

My official letters to the Secretary's of State & War will give you the news from Nachitoches; the prospect in that quarter, is not as pleasing as I could wish; but I yet hope, that nothing serious will happen.

I am Dear Sir
With great Respect
Your Hble. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans 3rd April 1806.

Sir,

I now enclose you copies of the answers which have been returned by the Council & House of Representatives, to the Communication which I had the honor to make them, On the 25: Ultimo.

You will perceive with pleasure, the patriotic sentiments of the Legislature, & which to me are the more satisfactory, because I am persuaded of their sincerity.

Since my letter of the 29th Ulto. I have no informa-

tion from Nachitoches; I am anxious for further intelligence from that quarter; I fear it will not be agreeable.

I am Sir
With Esteem & Respect
Your Hble. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans April 8th 1806.

Sir,

The enclosed correspondence between Govn. Grandpre and myself deserves your perusal. I am inclined to think, there is no foundation for the information communicated by Governor Grandpre, & I rather suppose, it is only resorted to as a pretext for his late measures.

I have no recent Intelligence from Nachitoches; at the date of my last accounts, the Spanish Troops continued encamped on the western Bank of the Sabine. Major Porter had stationed a Company of Infantry, in advance of Nachitoches, & within the limits assigned by the Spanish Agents to the Province of Taxus, but I know not the orders which were given to the Officer Commanding the Detachment.

I have the honor to be Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Hble. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

Sir, New Orleans April 8: 1806.

I was this morning visited by the French Consul, Mr. Desforgues, who read to me in confidence a copy of a recent correspondence between himself and Governor Folch upon the subject of the train of Artillery belonging to France, and which still remains in this city. Gov. Folch, under an impression that a war between the United States and Spain was likely to ensue, and that France would not view without consern a contest in which the interest of her Ally was involved, advises the immediate transportation of the Artillery aforesaid to the Town of Mobile, as a necessary and prudent measure. Mr. Desforgues in reply refuses to conform to the wishes of Governor Folch, and adds that he will not deliver the artillery either to the Agents of Spain or the United States without the Orders of his Government.

Mr. Desforgues said he had made this communication in Order to convince me of his disposition to act a just and candid part towards the United States, and hoped I would also receive it as an evidence of his personal esteem and confidence. The determination of Mr. Desforgues is a proper One, and I doubt not his disposition to adhere to it; but I am resolved not to allow this train of Artillery (unless the President should direct me otherwise) to be removed to any place in the possession of Spain, nor to permit their use by the army of the U. S. unless indeed the Territory of Orleans should be invaded; and in that case, I shall avail myself of every means of defence.

As this Communication of Mr. Desforgues to me was a confidential one, I hope this letter will not be made public.

I have the honor to be Sir,
With great respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
W. C. C. Claiborne

To Grand Pre

New Orleans 8: April 1806.

Your Excellency's letter of the 1st inst. has been received; and to quiet your apprehension as far as in my power, I hasten to assure you that I have never before heard of the hostile preparations which you seem to think are on foot in the Mississippi Territory, nor of the co-operation which you have understood was intended on the part of three Commercial Houses of this City. I must hope and believe that the information received by Your Excellency is incorrect; in as much as the Government of the United States has not directed any hostile measures towards His Catholic Majesty.

The determination of your Excellency to require Passports of all persons passing from hence through the Territory under your Government, will not, I hope be persisted in. This formality has not heretofore been observed, and was it now introduced, it would subject many individuals to Inconveniences; more especially at this Season of the year, when there are so many Boatmen and others returning to the Western Country.

I could indeed urge other reasons against the proposed regulations; but as it seems to have Originated from some reports which by this time will, I trust, appear to your Excellency to be unfounded, I persuade myself you will give the necessary Orders to ensure to the unoffending American Travellers, a safe passage through the settlement of Baton Rouge, on their return to their respective homes.[1]

I have the honor to be
With high consideration and respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

[1] The expulsion of Casa Calvo and Morales of course led to retaliation on the part of the Spanish authorities.

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans 10: April 1806

Dear Sir,

I cannot hear without much anxiety of the great events which are passing in Europe; the whole continent seems to have acknowledged the Superiority of France, & it is probable that England will ultimately submit to the will of Bonaparte. In these times of Blood and Revolution; when Armies are destroyed in a day & Nations fall and rise in a Month, you will I trust excuse, me in expressing my solicitude to learn the present state of our foreign Relations? Whether there is yet a prospect of an amicable adjustment of Differences; Or whether recourse will probably be had to Force to decide the question of Right? My mind is prepared for either event—if Peace with honor is preserved; I shall acknowledge with gratitude the wisdom & virtue of the Administration; If war should ensue I shall regret the necessity which produced it, but will with pleasure devote my Life to the service of my Country. I await with impatience the receipt of Intelligence from Nachitoches; the Spanish Troops on the Sabine assumed a hostile front; but had not crossed the River at the date of my last letters. The passage of the Mobile is still denied us, & Governor Folch indicates by his movements strong apprehension of War. But for more minute details, I must refer you to my Official Letters to the Secretary's of State & War.

The Territorial Legislature makes but little progress in the dispatch of Business;— The ancient Louisianians are greatly Jealous of the few Native Americans who are in the House of Representatives, nor are there wanting some designing mal-contents out of Office and confidence, who have recourse to every expedient, to dissheminate the Seeds of distrust & discontent. I am at present

upon excellent terms with the two Houses of Assembly; — But I fear this good understanding will not continue thro'out the Session;— Many laws will be offered for my approbation & my duty will compel me to reject several;— thence commences a Jealousy of the Executive, & the base Intriguers will spare no pains to widen the Breach.

With Sentiments of great respect
I have the honor to be Sir;
Your faithful friend
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Albert Gallatin

New Orleans 10: April 1806

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose you an account & vouchers of the contingent expenses of my Department, for the last quarter.

If the appropriation Law should have passed, it will be an accomodation to me, if the Collector of this Port, should be authorised to purchase by Bills

I am Sir
With very great Respect
Your Mo. Obt. Servt
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans April 16: 1806

Sir,

It is here very generally understood, that the King of Spain has permitted a settlement on the River Trinity, & established a free Port on the Bay of St. Bernard.

The Royal decree upon this subject is said to be dated in September 1805, & to have been published by the Vice Roy of Mexico in February last. It is represented to me that several copied of the decree are now circulating in this Territory & I have no doubt, that many Persons will be disposed to emigrate.

I take this occasion to inform you, that in Obedience to the Instructions contained in your communication of the 10: Febry. I did on the 29th of March address to the Marquis of Casa Calvo a letter in which he was informed that a settlement on the Trinity River (previous to the adjustment of the Limits between the Territories of the United States and those of Spain) would not be viewed with indifference, and that "if the settlements meditated or any other shall be attempted within the disputed Territory, the Government will consider itself justified in taking any measures that may be necessary to break it up."

I have the honor to be Sir,
With great Respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

Sir, New Orleans April 16: 1806

Late accounts from Natchitoches state, that the Spanish force had been withdrawn from the Sabine, & that the Orders given, to cross that River & establish a Post near Nachitoches, were countermanded by the Governor General of Taxus;— It is probable therefore, that for the present everything will remain tranquil on our Western Frontier.

We have a Report in circulation that our differences with Spain are settled; that the Floridas are ceded to the

United States; & the Western Boundary of Louisiana agreed on; I do not know, the authority for this Report; it however has acquired credit here, & will give rise to some speculations. It is even said, that companies are formed to purchase large Tracts of Land in East and West Florida and that their Agents are selected.

The date of my last letter from the Department of State, was the 10th of February, since which I have neither seen or heard anything on which I could rely, that would enable, to form any Opinion as to the state of our affairs with Spain.

With Sentiments of Esteem & Respect
I am Sir
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

By His Excellency William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Territory of Orleans:
To the Sheriff of the County of Orleans, and all others concerned, Greeting:

Whereas Jean Biendras of the County of Orleans, laborer, hath been lately convicted before the Honorable the Superior Court of this Territory of an assault and battery and was thereupon sentenced to Fine and Imprisonment as will appear, reference being had to the records of the said Superior Court: and

Whereas, it is represented to me, that the said Jean Biendras is a proper object of Mercy, I have thought proper to grant him a free pardon of the Assault and Battery of which he stands convicted, and wholly to remit the Fine and Imprisonment to which he was sentenced.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory this 7th day of February 1806, and in the 30th year of the Independence of the United States.

[L. S.] Signed William C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Territory of Orleans:
To the Sheriff of the County of Orleans, and all others concerned:

Whereas John Loyd a mulatto man and bond servant hath been convicted before the Honorable the Superior Court of this Territory, of the crime of Theft, and was thereupon sentenced to two years hard labour, which time hath not yet expired, as will appear reference being had to the records of the said Superior Court:

And whereas it is represented to me that the said John Loyd is a proper object of mercy: I have thought proper by these presents to remit the remainder of his sentence, and do order him to be released.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory this 27th day of May 1806, and in the 30th year of the independence of the United States.

[L. S.] Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To J. W. Gurley, Atty. Genl.

New Orleans April 28th 1806

Sir,

I inclose you certain Papers which implicate the conduct of the Judge Yberville; If you suppose, there be ground for a prosecution against him, it will be your duty to take the legal measures to that effect.

I am Sir,
With esteem and respect
Your mo: Obt. Servt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans April 29th 1806.

Sir,

I am sorry to perceive the Divisions which exist in Congress, and particularly among men whose political sentiments were formerly in unison, but I have no doubt that virtuous men and virtuous measures will meet with the support of the Nation. The personal observations with respect to myself which Mr. Randolph thought proper to make on the floor of Congress on the 5th March last, are illiberal and unjust, they cannot however do me any serious injury.[1] My official acts are approved by my conscience, and my public reputation can receive no injury by a just and full investigation. The correspondent of Mr. Randolph has made him to speak a language the reverse of the Truth! This Government is not an imbecile one! It is sufficiently strong for all good purposes! I ask Mr. Randolph and his friend to produce proofs of its imbecility? I ask, if the laws are not enforced? If personal rights are not secured; and good order preserved? I do not know, nor do I believe that the Government is odious. If there are persons who would have preferred another system, it does not follow that the present one deserved their odium. How far my appointment may be popular in this Territory is not for me to say. In my situation, I am not always approached with the language of Truth, or the voice of candor. It is very certain that my office has attached the envy of some, and like other men invested with power, it has been impossible for me to use it in such a way as to have conciliated the good opinion of all. My enemies may probably be numerous, but I am assured of the confidence of

[1] John Randolph was severe in his condemnation of the administration of public affairs in Louisiana, he charged it with being weak and imbecile.

many honest men, of which neither Mr. Randolph or his correspondent can deprive me.

With respect to the discontents of the people, I by no means consider them as general or as serious as is represented. That the Louisianians have a great partiality for France, as their mother Country, that former habits had attached many of them to the Spanish System of Government, and that the intrigues of a few artful designing men had promoted discontents, and occasioned me much trouble are facts of which I have long since apprized you; but so far from admitting that the Louisianians are prepared to receive, with open arms, an Invader, I am impressed with an opinion, that, in the event of war, many of the Creoles of the Country would be found faithful to the United States. Perhaps a disposition to remain neutral might become prevalent, as the surest means of preserving their property, but on these points I have been sufficiently explicit in my former letters.

I am sorry to have said so much on a subject relates more immediately to myself; but I trust I shall find in your indulgence, my apology. At all times I shall be prepared to vindicate my official conduct before a Constitutional Tribunal: and to the President of the U. S. or to you Sir, I shall be proud of an opportunity to explain and justify such of my acts as may have been excepted to.

You will oblige me by laying this letter before the President of the U. S.; and permit me to subscribe myself,

With great respect and esteem,
Your mo: obt. Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

Circular to Notaries Public and to Clerk of Superior Court

New Orleans April 30th 1806.

Sir,

The Governor will, for the future give a certificate of citizenship to no person who shall not prove his right to the same by his own oath and that of two citizens of this Territory, which Citizens shall either be the owners of real property within the same, or engaged in some particular business which promises a continuance of their residence in the Territory. You will notify this regulation to persons claiming citizenship, and you will add that care will be taken to detect all such persons as may have deposed falsely touching the claim of citizenship for himself or for others, and to bring him or them to that punishment which the law prescribes for the crime of perjury.

By order of the Governor
signed R. Claiborne
Secretary to the Governor.

New Orleans April 30th 1806.

To Henry Dearborn

Sir,

My letter of the 1st of February last informed you, that, for the better security of the City of New Orleans, I had to establish a guard of the City Militia, which would occupy one of the public buildings, and would require some expenses for their accommodation. This guard ended on the 22d instant, and I caused the account

to be rendered by the person who furnished the articles, which you will see enclosed, and for which I have this day drawn on you in favor of H. A. Heins for $45:50, at five days sight, which I beg may be paid.

I am Sir,
With great respect and esteem,
your mo: obt. Servt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To the Notaries and the Clerk of the Superior Court

Circular, New Orleans May 2d 1806.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor of the Territory, to request of you a list of such Persons, as may have proven before you, their right to Citizenship; together with the names of the persons, who by their oaths, may have supported the right to Citizenship of each respective claimant.

You will be pleased to furnish the list and names aforesaid as soon as possible.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your hble. Servt.
Signed R. Claiborne
Secretary to the Governor

To the Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and of the House of Representatives. New Orleans May 6th 1806.

I have considered with respectful attention, the Bill entitled "An Act to establish certain conditions necessary to be a member of either House of the Legislature of the Territory of Orleans."

The principle of the Bill is good, but in the shape, in which it is brought before me, I cannot approve it.

I understand that the operation of this Bill is to be immediate, and that it will embrace several members of the present Legislature; in this view of the subject, I consider the measures as unconstitutional; if there be Members not qualified in manner pointed out in the ordinance, or who have not been duly elected, they unquestionably ought not retain their seats in the Legislature; but it seems to me that a member, possessed of the qualifications required by the ordinance for our Government, has a right to continue his functions during the period for which he was elected, and that a law which shall impose other qualifications than these pointed out in the ordinance, cannot be constitutional, unless its operation shall be prospective, and not permitted to affect the sitting members.

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans May 8th 1806.

Sir,

I inclose for your perusal a Copy of a Bill which had passed the two Houses of the Legislature, with a Copy of a Message notifying my disapprobation thereto.

The subject has occasioned much conversation in this place, and is made by some a ground of Complaint against me. As this affair may probably be misrepresented at the seat of Government, I have thought proper, to communicate to you, the particulars.

The ancient Louisianians in the Legislature, are impatient of Controul, and will illy receive a Check from the Executive authority; but I must do my duty and shall on every occasion act the part which my Judge-

ment approves; by pursuing this course, I may present to my enemies fresh materials to work upon, and render myself unpopular, but my Conscience will be tranquil, and I shall sleep the better at night.

I am Sir,
With respect and esteem
your hble. Servt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans May 14th 1806.

Sir,

The Secretary of the Territory, Mr. Graham, will depart from hence to the United States in a few days; by him I shall write you fully as to the state of things in this quarter.

The Territorial Legislature will I fear do little good during the present session; they are devidid, and one party, the strongest, seems to me to be greatly influenced by a few men in this City, whose politics and views are, in my opinion, in opposition to the interests of the United States. Those men, who are great adepts in the arts of Intrigue, are desirous that Evan Jones should be elected the delegate to Congress, and I am inclined to think they will accomplish their object.

With great respect and esteem,
your hble. Servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To James Madison

New Orleans May 16th 1806.

Sir,

Mr. Graham who visits the United States, by permission of the President, will be enabled to satisfy your Enquiries with respect to the state of things in this Territory; Mr. Graham departs with my regret; his attachments to the Interest of his Country, and his private virtues secured him my friendship, while his good sence and prudent Conduct inspired a degree of confidence, which the political connection between us has greatly increased.

The Legislature of the Territory is still in session. With the best Intentions, such a contrariety of opinion prevails as to the means of promoting the public Good, that hitherto nothing has been done, and I much doubt, whether the result of their Deliberations will meet either the wishes or interest of the people. The differences in language and the Jealousy which exists between the Ancient and modern Louisianians are great Barriers to the Introduction of that harmony and mutual confidence, which I so much desire. This misfortune (for such I consider it) is seen and regretted; but a remedy can alone be found, in those vicissitudes which time produces.

There are no doubt several minor causes of discontent in this quarter; but, the most fruitful sources are, the introduction of the English Language in our Courts of Justice; the Judicial System generally and particularly the Trial by Jury, and the admission of Attorneys. The pride as well as the convenience of the Louisianians are opposed to any innovation in their Language; the Trial by Jury is by many considered as odious, and the Lawyers as serious nuisances; designing men may labour to trace the dissatisfaction to the conduct of the

Governor, and to attach much blame to the Executive Authority, but such suggestions are more the effects of private malice and resentment, than the convictions of truth and reflection.

I do not believe that I am a favorite with the people of this Territory; my duties may be discharged with fidelity; and my administration may nevertheless be unpopular. At the present period, no executive officer can please all parties; change the chief magistrate to morrow; nominate and commission the greatest and best man in the nation, and the society here will continue dissatisfied.

When our disputes with Spain are adjusted, and the Citizens induced to think that their political destiny is fixed; when the English Language is generally spoken, and a knowledge of the principles of the American Government diffused, then I shall be disappointed, if the Louisianians should not be among the most zealous and virtuous Members of our Republic. But at the present Crisis, and with the present population disturbed as it is by the Intrigues of Adventurers, unprincipled adventurers from every Country, it is not in the power of any man to put down distrust and dissatisfaction.[1]

I have the honor to be Sir,
With great respect and esteem
your hble. Servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans May 19th 1806.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Graham who visits the United States by your permission, will be enabled to satisfy your inquiries with

[1] Claiborne's firmness in vetoing bills made him for a time unpopular with the French element.

respect to this Territory, and particularly as it relates to our local politics.

On the return of Mr. Graham which I hope will be in September next, I entreat your permission (unless the state of things here should render my presence necessary) to visit the United States. I should be happy to have it in my power to visit the City of Washington, but I feel particularly desirous to pass a few weeks in Tennessee. For near six years, I have paid no attention to my private affairs, and they are now so deranged, that without some care on my part, I shall soon find myself without any means of support, other than that which my office may afford. But independent of this consideration, I feel as if I required some short respite from my public avocation. An incessant attention to business for more than five years, has greatly impaired my Constitution; and I am persuaded that a journey to the United States would be of great service to my health. I could have prefered to have taken this journey during the summer months; but with your permission, I would with pleasure undertake it in the fall.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your faithful friend.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Albert Gallatin

New Orleans May 20th 1806.

Sir,

On the return of Mr. Graham to this Territory, I hope I may be permitted to visit the seat of Government; among other objects, I am desirous to effect a settlement of my accounts, and my presence I am persuaded, will

enable me to give such explanations, as will induce the officers of the Treasury Department to allow me several Charges against the United States, of some amount which have not hitherto been included in any account.

The inclosure marked *A,* is a general statement of monies expended during the temporary Government of Louisiana; and that marked *B,* under the Government of the Territory of Orleans, from which you will perceive, that there is a Considerable balance due me from the United States.

At the close of the present quarter, I shall transmit you an account of monies received from the rents of public buildings, and of the sum expended in their repairs. At the present period, the expenditures have exceeded the receipts; but I presume at the end of the quarter, the accounts will be nearly balanced.

For the news in this quarter, I refer you to Mr. Graham; he is well acquainted with the political states of things.

I am sorry to learn the divisions in Congress, but, I trust, the nation will receive no injury therefrom; I have observed also the great exceptions which have been made to my official Character, and the very harsh language which a member of Congress has used towards me; I feel on this occasion, as every honest public officer must feel, when assailed by the weapons of malice and calumny.

With great respect and Esteem
I have the honor to be Sir,
Your most obt. Servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Petit & Donalson

New Orleans May 20th 1806.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Shabbaud will show you a Copy of the law of the Territory, under which he is appointed a Keeper of Records; you will discover by the law, that a list of the papers and documents which are to be confided to Mr. Shabbaud, are to be made out in the presence of two Commissioners named for the purpose.

You will much oblige me, Gentlemen, if you would on this occasion, act as Commissioners, and discharge the duties required by the law.

With sentiments of respect,
I am, Gentlemen
your most Obt. Servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Laveaux Trudeau

New Orleans 20th May 1806.

Sir,

Desirous of availing the Public of your services, as Recorder of the City of New Orleans, I have the honor to inclose you a Commission, and to subscribe myself.

Very respectfully
your humble servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Thomas Jefferson

New Orleans May 21st 1806

Dear Sir,

Mr. Daniel Clark is elected the Delegate to Congress; the sincere friend of his Country, Doctor Watkins was supported by the native Citizens of the United States

who are in the Legislature; the votes of the ancient Louisianians were divided between Daniel Clark and Evan Jones.

I do not know the course the Delegate may pursue; he possesses Talents, and may, if he chuses, be serviceable to the Territory. It is probable he may labour to do me injury; he has uniformly given me opposition in this quarter— and it is not probable that his political enmity will abate on his arrival at the Seat of Government,— I however feel as if he could do me no injury. The unjust attack which Mr. Randoph has made on my political conduct and reputation, has given new life to my Enemies, and will (no doubt) encourage them to recommence their calumnies, but my conscience tells me I have nothing to fear! My conduct is honest, and directed by the purest motives of patriotism. If my administration in this Country has not been as satisfactory as I could have wished, it has been marked with no event that can subject me to reproach! I may have committed errors, but they were never intentional, nor have they proved injurious— for the Territory has flourished, and the people "maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and the religion they profess."

My friend Mr. Graham will be enabled to give you in detail the politics of this District; he possesses a great share of my confidence and esteem, and departs with my regret; I hope however for his return in the Fall— for as a man and an officer, his continuance here is alike desirable to me.

I have the honor to be, &c
signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

New Orleans May 21. 1806

Sir

I have yielded to the wish of Governor Grand Pre, and have permitted Passports to be given to such of the Citizens of the United States as may travel through the settlement of Baton Rouge, and who may apply for Passports at my office. These Passports are without Seal, and signed by my Private Secretary. This is done in order to save the applicants the expense of a dollar for each Passport; since by a Law of the Territory, the Private Secretary to the Governor is made the Keeper of the Public Seal, and is entitled to demand and receive as his fee the sum of one dollar for each and every impression of said seal.

I have the honor &c
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

N. O. May 22, 1806

Sir

I inclose for your perusal a copy of another act of the Legislature which I shall reject. This measure was probably suggested by some of the French Lawyers, and has become a favorite measure with the Majority of the two Houses. Its rejection will therefore perhaps excite some discontent. But the course my judgment suggests must be pursued. The proceedings of the present Legislature are I fear in a great degree influenced by a few *Intriguers* who deserve not their confidence. These men have and will occasion much trouble in this Territory. Mr. Daniel Clark and Mr. Evan Jones are actively employed in political concerns. The first, from disappoint-

ment, is greatly soured with the General Administration; and the latter, from principle is inimical to the American Government. They both cordially unite in doing the Governor here all the injury in their power. Mr. Clark's opposition to me may be attributed to an unwillingness on my part (immediately on my arrival) to be controuled by his opinions and my aversion to his views as well private as public. Mr. Jone's dislike of me has arisen from the Seizure of the Brig Active; of the particulars of which you have long since been made acquainted with.

I have the honor &c.
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne.

To James Madison

N. O. May 22d 1806.

Sir, Not to be inserted in the office Journal.

I inclose for your perusal a copy of another Act of the Legislature, which I have rejected. This Bill was probably suggested by some of the French Lawyers, and has become a favorite measure with the Majority in the two houses. Its rejection therefore will be made the ground of new complaints against me. It is even said that it will determine the Legislature to solicit my recall. But be this as it may I shall continue to act the part which my judgment approves.

I have the honor &c
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Daniel Clark

N O May 22. 1806.

Sir,

Your letter of this date is received. On the arrival of the Spanish armed Brig Alerta at Plaquemine, she will be brought to by the Officer commanding Fort St.

Philip, and there detained until she is reported to the Governor of the Territory, and his permission for her ascending the river, obtained. I do not at present know of any objection to the Vessel alluded to ascending the river; but previous to permission being granted, the Report of the Officer commanding at Fort Plaquemine must be received. No impediment will be offered to the Spanish officers visiting this City, and they will experience the friendly treatment due to the Officers of a nation with whom the United States are in Peace.

I have the honor &c.
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Pardon of Agricole Landry

William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans: To the Sheriff of the County of Attackapas, and all others concerned, Greeting:

Whereas Agricole Landry of the County of Attackapas, hath lately been convicted before the honorable the County Court of said County, of the crime of Assault and Battery; and was thereupon sentenced to a fine of fifty dollars:

And Whereas the said Agricole Landry is represented to me to be a poor distressed man, and deserving of mercy: I have thought proper to grant him a free pardon of the Assault and Battery of which he stands convicted, and wholly to remit the fine of Fifty dollars to which he was sentenced.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at New Orleans, this 24. day of May 1806, and in the 30. year of the Independence of the United States.
[L. S.] signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To John Noel Destrehan

N O May 26. 1806.

Sir

Your letter of the 24. instant, notifying me of your resignation as a member of the legislative Council, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States.

My own opinion is that you ought not to abandon your Seat in the Council until the President shall have accepted your resignation. I however will communicate to the House of Representatives a copy of your letter to me, and of my answer, who will determine as to the propriety, during the present Session, of making such nominations as is required by the Ordinance when a vacancy in the Council, arises.

I have the honor &c
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne.

To P. Sauve

N O May 26. 1806.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21. instant and to inform you that a copy thereof shall be transmitted to the President of the United States.

My own impression is, that you cannot with propriety withdraw from the Council until your resignation shall have been announced to the President of the United States, and his acknowledgement of the same receive: A copy however of your letter to me and of my answer shall be laid before the House of Representatives who will determine how far it may be proper to take, on their part, during the present Session the measures necessary

to supply the vacancy which your resignation may occasion.[1]

I have the honor to be &c.
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

N. O. May 26, 1806.

Sir

I this day rejected the Bill of which a copy was enclosed you in my letter of the 22. instant. This act of mine has given rise to a proceeding no less unexpected than it is unprecedented and exceptionable. The Council have passed a resolution proposing an immediate dissolution of the Assembly; assigning for reason, that the Governor has and continues to reject their best laws. The resolution is attributed to Mr. Darbigny, who is clerk of the Council, and has, it is said, acquired over that body a decided ascendency. I do not know that this Resolution will be agreed to by the House of Representatives; it is however not improbable that the resolution will be supported, since a majority of the members of the lower House are evidently under the influence of men inimical to the Government.

I considered the bill in question as improper— and it was my duty therefore to reject it. If by the Ordinance and Laws of Congress the Civil law is recognized, the bill was useless. The Judges of the Superior Court can determine the authorities on which to rely. Their selection would likely be more judicious than any which the legislature could make.

I profess myself to be uninformed of the merits of this Bill, and to know not the consequences which might

[1] These resignations were caused by disagreements between the governor and the legislature in law making.

flow from it. In any event I thought it best to disapprove the measure; and that course which my judgment approves, I shall never regret having pursued.

The ancient Louisianians are impatient of controul. A Governor who would act on all occasions as the legislature desired, would be most satisfactory to them. But the good of the country requires that the two houses of assembly should sometimes receive a check. Their Acts are far from being perfect, and are sometimes highly inexpedient. Those of this description I shall not assent to.

I shall write you more fully on this subject on tomorrow. It is indeed an arduous task to direct the affairs of this Territory, and particularly so under the present form of government. I however have been in difficulties ever since my arrival in the Territory, and I am by no means discouraged by the prospect now before me.

The French Consul Mr. Deforgues has taken great offence at a late publication in the Orleans Gazette, and has made to me a formal complaint. The publication alluded was defamatory of the Emperor of France, and was indeed highly improper. Mr. Deforgues was told that the Government had no controul over the Press; that its licentiousness was seen and regretted but a remedy had not yet been devised; that it was not in my power to take any measures on the occasion; that the Judiciary of the Country could alone interfere, and I referred him to the district attorney, Mr. Brown, for advice. Mr. Deforgues was greatly irritated— and among other observations he stated that the French citizens would have risen en mass, and massacred the Printer, had it not been for his interference. I thanked him for his good intentions, but assured him there was no necessity for his interference, since the Government was adequate to the preservation of order, and to the protection of its

Citizens from violence. I fear Mr. Deforgues is a violent man, and that he is intriging with the Louisianians: his movements however will not escape my observation.

I have the honor &c.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Message to the Legislature

N O May 26. 1806.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and of the House of Representatives.

Some difficulties having arisen in the execution of a Law passed by the late legislative Council entitled "An Act providing for the removal and safe keeping of certain papers, records, and documents now in the possession of Peter Pedesclaux and Charles Xemines", I have thought proper to submit the subject to the consideration of the Legislature.

The difficulty has arisen as to the construction of the Act and the particular documents which it embraces.

By the first section of the Act aforesaid, it is made the duty of the Governor "to appoint a proper person to take charge of all the documents and records now in the office of Peter Pedesclaux & Notary Public of this City, which were sealed up in presence of two of the members of the Municipality of New Orleans by order of the late Colonial Prefect of Louisiana when said Province was under the Government of France."

To enable the Executive to ascertain the particular papers and documents alluded to in the law, recourse has been had to the original decree of the late colonial Prefect, Mr. Laussat, and which now exists among the Records of the City Council. The decree directs that Commissioners named by the Municipal Body shall immediately repair to the offices of the Notaries, and of other

Judicial or Municipal depositories of Rolls and Records; that they shall affix seals thereon; and shall leave in the possession of the public Officers, none but the Records of the current Acts until otherwise directed by the competent authorities, when the same shall come to be established." This decree bears date the 30. November 1803. It was notified to the Municipality the same day, and Commissioners appointed to execute the same, who immediately affixed seals to the Doors of the office of Mr. Pedesclaux. These seals were afterwards taken off by order of the Governor General during the late temporary Government of Louisiana; and Mr. Peter Pedesclaux received a Commission as a Notary Public, and keeper of Mortgages. The Commissioners however named by the Municipality proceeded to take an inventory of the papers and documents; but the same being numerous, the work was not completed, and those papers which related to the Proceedings of the French superior Court or Council which existed previous to the Cession of the Country to Spain were put into separate Packets and sealed.

From this view of the subject, it is difficult to ascertain what particular documents are embraced by the Act of the late Legislative Council, whether all the documents in the possession of Mr. Pedesclaux, except his notarial Acts, at the time his office was sealed by virtue of the decree of Mr. Laussat are included, or whether the Act extends only to the Packets on which seals were placed? The subject is recommended to the two Houses of Asembly, and the propriety of an explanatory act is submitted for their consideration.

The records in the possession of Mr. Pedesclaux are highly important. They embrace Title Papers for much valuable property, and their safe keeping is essential to the interest of the Citizens. It may be deemed a wise and necessary measure to define by a particular law the

duties of the Keeper of Mortgages, and to establish such regulations as will give additional security to all Records which may be confided to his care.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

N O 26. May 1806.

Sir,

I pray you to lay before the President of the U. S. the inclosed letters from Messrs. Destrehan and Sauve, resigning their Seats in the legislative Council; together with copies of my answers thereto. Colonel Bellechasse had also written his letter of Resignation, but has since been induced not to forward it.

The services of an ancient Louisianian in the Legislature cannot with any certainty be calculated on. Few are disposed to make any sacrifice of private Interest for the public good.[1]

I have the honor &c.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O 26 May 1806.

Message to the Legislative Council, and to the House of Representatives.

I have it in command from the Governor of the Territory of Orleans to inform the honorable the Legislature, that he has considered with respectful attention, the Bill which originated in the honorable Council, entitled "An Act declaring the laws which continue to be in force in the Territory of Orleans, and authors which may be recurred to as authorities within the same," and that he does not approve said Bill.

Signed R. Claiborne P. S.

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[1] This distrust of the French was not fixed and soon gave place to a feeling of confidence.

To Julien Poidrass

N O May 26. 1806.

Dear Sir

I am this moment honored with the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant. I am aware of the difficulties of your Office, nor can I too highly esteem the Patriotism which has induced you to continue so long in an unprofitable and troublesome office. As good Citizens however, it is our province to do all we can to promote the welfare of the Society in which we live; and altho' our services may not be gratefully appreciated by our fellow Citizens, we nevertheless find great consolation from the reflection that we have faithfully done our duty.

The conduct of Mr. Planchet is not approved. His language concerning you is unjust and disrespectful. I trust however that Mr. Planchet has by this time seen his error, and that by a timely apology, he is restored to your good opinion.

As it relates to the particular duties of the Auctioneer, I will, after consulting with the Attorney General, point them out in a letter to Mr. Planchet, and shall endeavor to prevent for the future any interference with the functions of the Judge. However, will write you more fully upon this subject by Mr. Hopkins who will leave this for Point Coupee in a few days. I at present wait only the opinion of the Attorney General, whose opinion I have always thought proper to consult in questions which embrace the legal duties of an Officer.

I am sorry to inform you that but little has been done by the legislature, and even that little has not been well done.

You have heard I suppose of Mr. Clarke's election to Congress. He has talents, and may if he pleases render the Territory some service. Mr. Jones was an unsuccessful Candidate. It is probable he was solicitous to be chosen; and report says that his failure has occasioned him much chagrine.

An amendatory Bill to the Judiciary System has been reported by a Committe of the House of Representatives; but I learn that it will not be acted upon during the present Session. I think with you that our present Judicial system is defective; it neither suits the Interests or habits of the People.

You will have understood that the Governor has not on all occasions approved the proceedings of the two Houses, and that they are not well pleased with the manner in which his power in this respect has been used. On this day I rejected a bill which went to point out the Treatises and Writers on the Civil Law which should be practised in our Courts of Justice; and the Council was so much displeased, that they immediately passed a resolution of adjournment— assigning for the reason, that their best acts were rejected by the Governor. I do not know that the Resolution will be approbated by the House of Representatives. But this much I am assured of, that no consideration will induce me to shrink from my duty. The man does not exist who more ardently than myself desires the happiness of the People of this Territory. But I may nevertheless differ with the two Houses as to the means of promoting the general Welfare. In relation to the Law in question, I consider it as a useless measure, and one that might prove injurious; therefore it was that I rejected it; and as it relates to my public duties, I can alone be directed by my judgment.

I recollect to have rejected several Acts of the late Legislative Council; but I never understood that that Body was disposed, on that account to dissolve. They did me the justice to believe that alike with themselves, I had no other object than the general good, and were not so confident of their superior judgment as to suppose that their works were perfect. It is, my dear Sir, an arduous task to meet the wishes, and at the same time

to support the interest of this people. My best intentions are perverted— and my best acts, misrepresented — But I have a consolation which is dearer to me than popular applause. My conscience acquits me of blame, and this reflection is more valuable than the praise of nations.

We have no late news. Bounaparte has completed the overthrow of Naples, and destines, as is said the conquered Kingdom for one of his brothers. The war between England and France is continued with obstinacy. The late change of Ministry it was hoped would be a prelude to a general Peace; but these hopes, so favorable to humanity, are not yet realized. It is believed that some serious misunderstanding exists in the Spanish Cabinet. Between the Heir to the throne, and the favorite of the King the Prince of Peace, there exists a great jealousy and dislike. Their disputes are carried so far that Bounaparte will probably be solicited to act as a mediator, in which case it is most probable he will put down both parties, and with them the Kingdom.

I continue to think the differences between the U. S. and Spain will ultimately be amicably settled; and whatever you may hear to the contrary, my firm opinion is, that the West Bank of the Mississippi will never pass from the United States: at least this is my wish, and at present my sincere belief.

I have the honor &c
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Cashier Louisiana Bank

N O May 26. 1806.

Sir,

The legislature of the Territory having authorized the Governor to borrow on the credit of the Territory a sum of money not exceeding 16,000 dollars, I have

thought proper to address on the subject the directors of the Louisiana Bank, and to solicit of them a loan, on the usual interest, of 16,000 dollars for 12 months. A copy of the act authorizing the loan is inclosed, which I beg you to lay before the directors.

I have the honor &c.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Message to House of Representatives

N O May 27. 1806.

Gentlemen—

I lay before you a copy of two letters which the Honorable John N. Destrehan and Peter Sauve members of the legislative Council have addressed to the Governor of the Territory, together with copies of his answers thereto.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Message to the Legislature

N O May 27. 1806.

I lay before you a petition signed by a number of the Citizens of Point Coupee, and which is addressed to the Governor of the Territory. The two Houses can best determine how far the subject matter of this petition may deserve the attention of the Legislature.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman

N O May 27. 1806.

Sir

I inclose for your perusal a complaint which has been made to me in writing against the officer commanding at Fort St. Philip. You will determine for yourself how

far th complain may justify the arrest of the officer; but for myself I deem it a duty to solicit that the Officer now commanding at Fort St. Philip may be relieved, and I make this request with the more confidence of its being acceded to, when I recollect that this is not the first time that Lieutenant Warrell has given cause of offence to the Citizens ascending the river.

I have the honor &c.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

Message to the Legislature

N O 28. May 1806.

I have the honor to lay before you a copy of a Proclamation which was issued on the 23. day of Augt. 1805 in conformity to the powers vested in the Governor by the 4th Sec: of the Act for regulating and governing the militia of the Territory of Orleans.

By this Proclamation such alterations have been made in the bounds of Divisions or Districts as seemed to me best suited to the situation of the Country and the convenience of the Militia Service. This arrangement will cease to have effect after the rising of the Assembly, unless the same shall be recognized by Law; of the propriety of which the legislature will determine.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Circular to Notaries

N O May 28. 1806.

I am desired by the Governor again to remind you of the necessity of recording in a book to be kept for the purpose the names of all applicants who receive Certificates of Citizenship, together with the names of the persons who may support, by their oaths, the claims of each respective applicant. A transcript from this Book, cer-

tified, you will be pleased to transmit to the Governor's every quarter.

You will continue to caution Applicants for Certificates of Citizenship, of the danger to which they will be exposed if it should appear hereafter that they have sworn falsely. The Governor will with pleasure give a Certificate of Citizenship to those who are bona fide entitled to the same, but it is a duty he owes to himself and his country to guard against deception.

Signed R. Claiborne
Secy, to the Governor.

To James Madison

N O May 28. 1806.

On yesterday the House of Representatives rejected the Resolution of the Council mentioned in my letter of the 26th, and on this day the two Houses are conducting business with dispatch and concord.

The resolution of the Council was passed without reflection, and was evidently the result of passion. As far as I can learn the public sentiment, the proceeding is not approved.

The Session of the legislature will be closed in a few days. The sickly season is approaching, and the members are solicitous to return to their homes.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman

N O May 28. 1806.

Lieutenant Duer will deliver to the Military Agent, fifty stands of the Public Arms, which were delivered to Captain Shaw and receipted for by him. I hope the military Agent will receive them, and give to Lieutenant Duer a receipt for that number.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

(Private) *To Henry Dearborne*

N O May 31, 1806.

In my letter of the I stated the want of a Brigadier General to complete the Organization of the Militia of this Territory, and mentioned Colo. Bellechasse as worthy the confidence of the President.

I still consider Colo. Bellechasse as an honest well disposed man, but upon a more intimate acquaintance with him, I am convinced that he has neither a sufficiency of energy of independence of character to discharge, with usefulness to his Country, the duties of a General. If therefore the appointment has not been made, I pray that Colo. Bellechasse may not now be considered as under my recommendation. My present opinion is that it would be best to select a native American for the Command of the militia of this district. I cannot venture at this time to recommend any one, but will endeavor to do so in the course of the Summer. In the mean time I hope no serious inconvenience will be experienced.

The Territorial Legislature is still in Session. They have transacted but little business, and not much harmony has prevailed.

To direct the affairs of this Territory will always be difficult; but under the present form of Government, it is indeed an arduous Task.

On our western frontier every thing is quiet. The Spanish forces are withdrawn from the Sabine, and have retired into the interior of the Province of Taxus.

The obstructions on the Mobile are continued, and American Vessels not permitted to pass to or from our settlements on the Tombigbee.

I have the honor &c.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To R. Claiborne

N O May 31, 1806.

I have this moment learned with no less regret than surprise that on yesterday you received from a Citizen going to Europe the sum of four dollars for a Passport issued from my Office; I am indebted for this information to a Gentleman who had it from the Citizen to whom the Passport was given. You will be pleased to explain this transaction. By the law of the Territory you are authorized to receive as your Fee one dollar for each impression of the public Seal; but I know not by what authority you demanded four dollars. I hope your explanation will be satisfactory.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

From R. Claiborne

N O May 31, 1806.

I have just received Your Excellency's letter of this date, and answer it with great readiness.

I cannot recur to the particular instance in which I am charged with having received four dollars for issuing a single Passport from your Office when the law allows the Private Secretary one dollar for each impression of the Seal; but I explain it in this way. If the Passport alluded to was issued, it contained *four names,* which I considered as so many Protections, and therefore did not hesitate to charge and receive the legal and accustomed fee from each Person. In almost all cases where families, or where several in connexion have applied together, it has been preferred by them that a single Passport should include the whole, and save the uselessness and trouble of making out distinct Passports; and they have paid without hesitation; but it was always

optional with the parties to receive separate Passports if they chose them. If this practise has been erronious it has existed in *Form* and not in principle; and the parties hereafter applying shall have, each, a separate Passport filled up—and they will then see wherein the extortion and impropriety lies.

Permit me to say for my own feelings, that the author of the complaint has betrayed more *ignorance* and *malice,* than *discretion* and *justice.*

I thank you Sir for the opportunity you have afforded me of explaining myself;

and I have the honor &c

Signed R. Claiborne
Private Secy.

To R. Claiborne

N O May 31. 1806.

Your answer to my letter of this date is not as satisfactory as I could wish. The charge you have made is to my mind evidently improper. I am pleased however to find that there is strong ground to believe that it originated in mistake. Under this impression I will for the present only request, that in all cases where more than one dollar has been required for one impression of the Public Seal, that the overplus may be returned to the person by whom it was paid; and I do now enjoin it upon you not to receive yourself, or to permit a Clerk employed in the Office, under any pretext whatever, to receive a Cent for an services, except such fees as are allowed you by the law "providing for a public Seal for the Government of the Territory of Orleans, and for other purposes."

When a Citizen with his family are departing from the Territory, you will include in his Passport, his wife, minor children, and domestics, and consider yourself en-

titled to demand the fee allowed for one impression of the Public Seal.

The instructions heretofore given with respect to Passports for persons passing through the settlement of Baton Rouge, are to be considered as binding. To such Passports the public Seal must not be affixed, and no fee is permitted to be received.

I am &c.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

PS. (omitted by the Copyist)

The name of the person of whom you received on yesterday four dollars for one Passport, I understand is a Mr. Morane.

[Three leaves of Manuscript torn out]

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Cashier Louisiana Bank

N O June 7. 1806

I have the honor to inclose you a copy of a resolution of the Legislature of this Territory; providing the means of reimbursing the Loan on the subject of which I wrote you on the 26. of last month.

I pray you Sir to lay before the Directors of the Louisiana Bank, the resolution of the assembly, and to renew to them my application for the loan of Sixteen thousand dollars.

In my character as governor I will sign such instrument of writing as may be deemed necessary to bind the Territory for the repayment, with interest, for the sum loaned.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison.

N O June 8. 1806.

On yesterday the Legislature of This Territory adjourned sine die. Previous to the adjournment, a Committee composed of the President of the Council and

speaker of the House of Representatives attended the Executive for the purpose of enquiring whether he had any further communications to make to the two Houses? To this Committee I made a short address—a copy of which is inclosed—and to which I refer you as my reply to the manifesto that has been signed and published by certain members of the Assembly.[1]

The last seven days of the Session, the legislature transacted much business, and separated in harmony.

The most perfect good order prevails, and the people seem to take but little interest in the proceedings of their representatives.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Col. Freeman

N O June 9. 1806.

The Mayor of the City requests a file of Soldiers to accompany a Civil Officer who is charged with the execution of a warrant against an individual who is accused of crimes and who has escaped from Justice by getting a board of a vessel outward bound. The Mayor suspects that the Civil Officer will meet with resistance, and therefore he wishes a file of men which I request you to furnish him.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O. 9. June 1806.

Obligation to Louisiana Bank.

Twelve months after date I William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Territory of Orleans (in pursuance of the Act of the Legislative Council and House of Repre-

[1] See resolution of May 26, 1806, Fortier's Louisiana, Vol. III, p. 37.

sentatives of said Territory of the 26. of May last authorizing me to borrow of the Louisiana Bank the sum of sixteen thousand dollars) do promise to pay to the President and Directors of the said Bank, the sum of sixteen thousand dollars for value received New Orleans June the 9th 1806.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

16,000$

To Thomas Jefferson

N O June 12. 1806.

(Private)

Inclosed are the names of the Gentlemen recommended as Councillors to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Messrs. Sauve and Destrehan.

Mr. Mather is an Englishman by birth, but has acted in this Territory the part of an American. He was a member of the first Legislative Council, and merits in my opinion a continuance of your confidence. Mr. Lacroix is a frenchman by birth and in sentiment. He is one of the Partisans of Mr. Daniel Clark, and if appointed to the Council would probably be directed by him. The other two Gentlemen, Messrs. Foucher and Livaudais are both natives of Louisiana, of large fortunes, good private character, but limitted information The first is the Son in Law and the latter the nephew of Mr. Bore, who probably may have great influence with both; if so, there is little ground to hope that they would either be zealously attached to the American Government. Of the two however, I am inclined to think that Mr. Foucher would be the best choice.

Mr. Van Predelles, one of the land Commissioners for this District, has informed me that Colo. Thompson the

Register for the Western District is about to resign that Office, and that he Mr. Van Predelles would feel gratified by being named his Successor. With respect to Mr. Van Predelles, I take pleasure in observing that his conduct here has evidenced great integrity and patriotism. He united to much useful information, a sincere attachment to the Government of the United States.

If a vacancy should arise in the Board of Land Commissioners for the New Orleans district, permit me to recommend to your notice Doctor John Watkins. This Gentleman has uniformly supported the interest and honor of his Country in this quarter. He is indeed a useful and worthy member of society.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Julien Poidrass

N. O. June 13. 1806.

Inclosed you will receive your Commission as a Member of the Legislative Council. I pray you to accept my congratulations on this Testimony of the President's confidence; and permit me to hope that you will not withhold from the People your faithful services.

Mr. Gurley the Attorney General has been so much engaged in the cause between Gravier and the Town concerning the alluvial land, that I have not been able to consult him relative to the Auctioneer business. I cannot tell you how Gravier's suit will terminate. The cause is tried by the two new Judges;[1] Mr. Provost declines sitting. Gravier has many able advocates. The interest of the Town is defended, with fidelity by Messrs. Gurley and Barbigny.

We have no late news from Europe; Our disputes with Spain are not yet adjusted, but strong hopes are en-

[1] Judges Sprigg and Mathews.

tertained of a speedy and amicable termination. All our difficulties with England are likely to be accomodated.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O June 15. 1806.

The Sheriff of Acadia County:

Inclosed is a writ of Election, which you will cause to be executed in conformity to the Law entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be observed in the Election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans", and of which Act you are herewith furnished with a Copy.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O June 15. 1806.

Proclamation; or Writ
of Election, on the resignation
of Joseph Landry; to the Sheriff of Acadia County.

Whereas Joseph Landry has resigned his seat as a member of the House of Representatives of this Territory for the county of Acadia: I have thought proper to issue this my Proclamation, hereby requiring that an Election be holden on the second Monday in July next, and the two following days, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the said Joseph Landry.

The Sheriff of the County of Acadia, with such two Justices of the Peace as may be named by the Judge of the County of Acadia Commissioners for the purpose, will conduct the Election, and cause it to be holden in conformity to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be used in the Election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans."

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at

New Orleans this 15th day of June in the year 1806, and of the Independence of the U. S. the 30th.
[L. S.] Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

N O June 15. 1806.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 26. of April, and the 6th of May.

I am sorry for the delay of Mr. Dean on his journey. It certainly has the appearance of great negligence on his part; which I the more regret, since he was recommended to me as a young man on whose industry and perseverance I might rely. Your instructions to me to forward the french Manuscript by land were imperative, and after waiting for some time without meeting a private conveyance, I thought it a duty to engage an Express.

Our relations with Spain in this quarter are more friendly than they were at the date of my last letters to you. On the side of Nachetoches, I hear of no new aggressions; on the contrary the Spanish troops are withdrawn from the Sabine to Nacagdoches, and evidence a disposition to remain quiet. I nevertheless rejoice at the reinforcements lately ordered to Nachetoches. It will not only serve to intimidate our Neighbours from any hostile attempts: but what is of infinitely more consequence, it will increase the confidence of the Louisianas in our Government.

On the Mobile, things remain in Statu quo. No arrangement has been made, to my knowledge, for the supply of our Garrison and Factory at the Tombigbee; on the contrary I learn that all intercourse by the way of the Mobile continues interdicted.

I do not believe that the Route by the Pascagoulas

will answer; nor do I believe that Governor Folche would assent to it. The mouth of Pascagoulas falls within the District of West Florida, and it is reported to me that Governor Folche has declared his intention of preventing the passage of American Vessels by the way of Pascagoulas. But on this subject I will write you more fully and particularly in a few days. My present impression is, that the best mode of supplying our Garrison and Factory on the Tombigbee, would be to direct Captain Shaw of the Navy, now here, to carry thither the necessary supplies in one or more of the Gun boats, which are shortly expected at this Port. Probably the passage of a public armed vessel would not be prevented. I have lately permitted a Spanish armed Brig to ascend the river Mississippi to this Port for the purpose, as the Captain says, of procuring supplies. In return I should suppose that Governor Folche would not object to an armed vessel of the U. S. ascending the Mobile river: at all events I should like to see the attempt made.

My own opinion is, that the troops ordered to this Territory, with the aid of the well disposed part of the Militia, is sufficient to defend us from any force that our Spanish neighbours could at present assemble. I consider the repairing of the Forts at Plaquemine and St. John as a necessary measure. Perhaps the present Scite of St. John is not as elegible as some other in its vicinity; but of this the Engineer can best determine.

My opinion is, that the erection of a Block House near the Point of Manchac, and of others on the roads leading from the lakes to this City, would be prudent measures of precaution.

The Body of the Troops destined for the protection of New Orleans should be placed near the City— so that they might speedily repair thither if their presence should be necessary. But as well with a view to the

discipline as the health of the Troops, they should not be stationed in the City.

With respect to my Militia, I entertain a much higher opinion of their patriotism than many native Americans do who reside in the Territory. I calculate with certainty on raising (if the emergency requires) twelve or 1500 men and perhaps a greater number: I intend however visiting in the course of the ensuing month the different counties with a view of promoting the militia service, and shall then be enable to form a more accurate opinion on this point.

I sincerely hope for an amicable and honorable arrangement with Spain: but if the efforts of our Government to effect this desirable object should fail, I feel no anxiety as to the issue of any contest which may ensue. You may be assured Sir that the Western People need only to be commanded, to rally around the standard of their country — and that a war with Spain would speedily be terminated.[1] In this quarter that power is feeble, and her debility is equally great, towards Mexico.

It will be a fortunate circumstance if our negociations with England be drawn to a speedy and friendly conclusion. The late event at New York is to be regretted; but the feeling manifested by our Citizens for the unfortunate Pearce; and the conduct of the President on the occasion; will serve to convince the nations of Europe, that the spirit of '76, is not yet extinguished!

The Spanish armed Brig now in this harbour carries 16 Guns and 120 men. The Captain and Crew have hitherto behaved well; but I shall direct the Captain to anchor his Brigg below the Fort of Plaquemine in the course of 3 or 4 days.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne.

[1] The sentiment of the people of the Mississippi Valley against Spain was very pronounced at this time.

To James Madison.

N O June 15. 1806

I have this moment held a conversation with a Gentleman of respectability from the County of Opalousas. He represents that a considerable emigration is about to take place from that County to the Spanish settlement on the river Trinity, where great encouragement is given to Settlers.

The Gentleman adds that the ancient inhabitants of Opalousas are much dissatisfied with our Judicial System; that the trial by Jury is not approved, and that the Lawyers are execrated! It is not in my power to remove the cause of this dissatisfaction. I never admired the system of County Courts. The old plan of Commandants was, in my opinion, best suited to the present state of the Territory; but the legislative Council preferred the immediate introduction of a Judiciary on american principles — and I reluctantly acquesced in the measure. I earnestly recommended to the late legislature a revision of the system; it was admitted by all to be defective; but the members differed so much as to the means of improving it, that finally they adjourned, and left the subject untouched.

The conduct of the Lawyers in the interior Counties is a source of great discontent. They are said to be extravagant in their charges; to encourage litigation; and to speculate on the distresses of their clients. I fear there is too much truth in this statement; but it is not in my power to apply a corrective.

The people here will for some years experience grievances. They grow out of the nature of things, and time alone will furnish a remedy.

Among the Emigrants to this Territory there is a description of people which I consider the greatest pests than (that) can afflict any honest society. They are those avaricious Speculaters who go about with a little

ready Cash to seek whom they may devour. Some of these hungry Parasites have, I am told fattened on the labors of these ancient Louisianians who have and are about to emigrate to the Trinity. It is probable that many persons who also emigrate to the Trinity from the Counties of Nachetoches and Rapids.[1] They are dissatisfied with our Court System; fear Taxation; and are made to believe by Spanish Partizans that their fortunes will be benefitted by a removal.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O. June 16. 1806.

William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

To the Sheriff of the County of Orleans,

and others whom it may concern, Greeting:

Whereas Jean Louis Chesnaugh a free black man was tried and convicted before the honorable the Court of the County of Orleans of the crime of Larceny, and was thereupon sentenced, as by the Records of the said Court will more fully appear, to receive twenty stripes:

And whereas it is represented to me that the said Jean Louis Chesnaugh is an object of mercy: I do hereby pardon the offence aforesaid, and remit the punishment to which the said Chesnaugh has been sentenced, and do order him to be discharged.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at New Orleans this 16. day of June 1806 and 30. year of the Independence of the U. S.

[L. S] Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

[1] The loss of citizens going over the line into Spanish possessions was not very great.

To Thomas Jefferson

(Private) N O June 17. 1806

The legislature having adjourned, I feel my mind relieved from much of that anxiety I lately experienced.[1] I nevertheless am abundantly occupied in my office, and am for the present confined to the City. So soon however as I shall cause the Laws passed by the legislature to be printed and distributed, it is my intention to visit the several Counties on and adjacent to the Mississippi, with a view of benefitting my health, and to aid in completing the organization of the militia, and promoting among the Citizens a military spirit. There are indeed many obstacles to rendering the militia of this Territory an efficient Force; but the object is so desirable that I shall spare no pains to effect it; nor will I permit myself to be discouraged by any difficulties.

I sincerely regret that the Legislature should have risen without amending the present Judiciary system of this Territory; it was recommended by me to their attention and the propriety of a reform was suggested; the system was esteemed exceptionable by all parties; but such a difference in opinion existed as to the means of improvement, that nothing was finally done. This system establishes County Courts; provides for their frequent session; and allows liberal fees to Lawyers, and to the officers of the Court. The system is generally reprobated, and is really the source of much discontent. The trial by Jury; the powers of the Court; and the frequency of their Sessions, are all objected to: But the conduct of the Lawyers *particularly in the interior counties,* has occasioned great dissatisfaction, and has served to alienate the affections of the Louisianians from the Government. These men are said to encourage litigation; to extort from their clients heavy fees; and when the judg-

[1] The relations between the Governor and the legislature became more harmonious toward the close of the session.

ment of the Court and costs of suit come to be paid, they the Lawyers are not unfrequently the only monied men who attend the Sheriff's sales. at least such is the information which it brought me from Opalousas and other Counties.

We have among us another description of people who by their conduct, contribute to disturb the harmony of this Society. They are avowed Speculators who profit by the distresses of individuals, and enrich themselves by engrossing, on the lowest terms, the property of the ancient Louisianians; and yet these same Speculators contrive to render themselves popular by abusing the Government and its officers; and in this way they pass for Patriots — and the innocent unsuspecting Louisianians are nuturing in their bosoms, Vultures who would not willingly leave them the path which leads to the Grave of their ancestors.

During the visit I purpose making in the Country I will endeavor to find out the various sources of discontent among the good Citizens of this Territory, and as far as is in my power, they shall be remedied.[1] In the mean time I pray you to be assured that the most perfect good order prevails, and that the laws are in complete operation. Designing and uncandid men who visit the United States, and others who may correspond with persons near you, may probably represent the state of things here in colours infinitely worse than they really are; and I am well aware that these men would wish to attach much blame to the Executive authority! but believe me Sir that these suggestions are for the most part made by those who view me as being in the way of their promotion. These people (the Louisianians) have experienced inconveniences which were indeed inseparable from

[1] This idea of going directly to the people to judge public opinion was the best evidence of Claiborne's democratic spirit, it was uncommon among territorial governors vested with his powers.

the change of Government. Some of their inconveniences are only imaginary; but unfortunatly, all their grievances either real or supposed it is no difficult task to make them believe, are alone attributable to the Governor.

I cannot but express to you the high satisfaction I feel at the conduct of Judge Sprigg and Judge Mathews. They keep aloof from the political disputes, and partake in none of the intrigues for which this City is so famed. They cannot fail to be respected, and will preserve the purity and dignity of the American Judiciary.

* There are doubtless some exceptions; I know some Gentlemen that practise in the County Courts, whom I am sure, deserve not this Character.

W. C. C. C.

* * I do not consider as Speculators those enterprising Men who have made Money by their Industry, and who wish by honest and fair purchases of real property to encrease their fortunes.

W. C. C. C.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Circular to Sheriffs

N O. June 18. 1806

It has been reported to me, that, at the sales of property taken under Execution, the Sheriffs are themselves not unfrequently the Purchasers.

Speculations of this kind are by me considered as improper, and I esteem it a duty to discourage them.

I take this occasion therefore to apprise you, that if hereafter any Sheriff shall, either by himself or an agent, be the purchaser of any property sold under an Execution directed to such Sheriff, I shall consider his conduct as *highly exceptionable.*

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O. June 20. 1806

The Sheriff of the County of Point Coupee.

Inclosed is a Writ of Election, which you will cause to be executed in conformity to the Law entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be observed in the election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans:" and of which act you are herewith furnished with a Copy.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne, Govr. of the Ty. of Orleans:

To the Sheriff of the County of Point Coupee; and all others concerned:

Whereas S. Croizet has resigned his seat as a Member of the House of Representatives of this Territory, for the County of Point Coupee I have thought proper to issue this my Proclamation, hereby requiring that an Election be holden on the third Monday in July next, and the two following days, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the said S. Croizet:

The Sheriff of Point Coupee, with two such Justices of the Peace as may be named by the Judge of the County of Point Coupee Commissioners for the purpose, will conduct the Election, and cause is to be holden in conformity to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be used in the election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans."

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Territory at New Orleans this 20. day of June 1806, and 30th year of the Independence of the United States.

[L. S.] Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N O June 20. 1806.

The Sheriff of the County of Opalousas:

Inclosed is a Writ of Election which you will cause to be executed in conformity to the Law entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be observed in the Election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans:" and of which Act you are herewith furnished with a copy.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

By W. C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Territory of Orleans:

A Proclamation:

To the Sheriff of the County of Opalousas; and all others concerned:

Whereas Louis Fountaineau has resigned his Seat as a member of the House of Representatives of this Territory, for the County of Opalousas: I have thought proper to issue this my Proclamation, hereby requiring that an Election be holden on the 3d Monday in July next and the two following days, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of of the said Louis Fontaineau:

The Sheriff of the County of Opalousas, with two such Justices of the Peace as may be named by the Judge of the County of Opalousas Commissioners for the purpose, will conduct the election, and cause it to be holden in conformity to the provision of the Act entitled "An Act prescribing the formalities to be observed in the Election of the Representatives of the Territory of Orleans."

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at New Orleans this 20. day of June 1806 and 30th year of the Independence of the U. S.

[L. S.] Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To F. Duplessiss

N O June 19. 1806.

I am desired by the Governor of the Territory of Orleans to inform you that he accepts your resignation as Treasurer of the County of Orleans; he thanks you for your faithful services – and appoints John Chabaud your Successor, to whom you will be pleased to deliver the papers and Accounts belonging to the Office.

Signed R. Claiborne
Secy. to the Governor

N O 21. June 1806

Sheriff of Orleans County.

You will be pleased to report to me, in writing, the names of the Persons now in confinement in this City under a Judgment rendered either by the Superior or County Court. You will state the offence of which each person was convicted, and the punishment to which he was sentenced. You will be pleased to make me your Report without delay.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

N O. June 21. 1806.

I inclose for your perusal several General Orders which have been issued since the receipt of your letters of the 26. of April, and the 6. of May.

By these you will perceive that I am not inattentive to the militia service; and I pray you to be assured that every effort in my power shall be made to infuse among the Citizens of this Territory, a martial spirit. I cannot however but acknowledge that I encounter many difficulties in organizing the Militia, and that Time and great exertions will be required to render it an efficient Force.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

Private N. O. June 21. 1806.

My friend Mr. Riebelt who returns to the United States under an apprehension that he has met with some heavy domestic misfortune, can give you much interesting information as to the state of things in this quarter.

The Troops ordered to this Territory; with the aid of the Militia, are, in my opinion, amply sufficient to repel any force which our Spanish neighbours could, at present, assemble; and in any event, I pray you to entertain no fears as to the safety of New Orleans and its dependencies.

With respect to the Militia of the Territory, I cannot count with certainty on their entire and active co-operation. I however doubt not but that many would prove faithful to the American Standard. No man could have laboured more ardently than myself to support in this quarter the interest and the honor of my Country and to attach the Louisianians to the American Government. But in these efforts I have met with much opposition and from a quarter where it was not expected. If there be any serious disaffection to the American Government in this Territory, it may, in a great measure, be attributed to the Intrigues of a few designing, discontented, restless men, whose native language is English.[1] The views of these men I have uniformly opposed; and of course I am honored with their hatred. of this number is Mr. Daniel Clark who will, most unquestionably say much and do much with a view to my injury on his arrival at the seat of Government: but with respect to Mr. Clark's statements, or those of his Partizans, all I ask is, that before they are believed, I may have an opportunity of explaining and justifying my conduct.

[1] Claiborne's idea that his troubles were due to his enemies among his own countrymen was not unfounded.

I hope my dear Sir, you will pardon the solicitude I manufest on this occasion. Within this Territory; within the very City where I reside, misrepresentations of my official acts the most cruel have been made— and means the most dishonorable have been resorted to with a view of injuring my political reputation! I cannot therefore but suspect that my Enemies will be most unjust towards me when they may be at the Seat of Government.

The Territory is tranquil, and the great Body of the people take no interest whatever in our political affairs. The Laws are enforced and the most perfect good Order is preserved.

On the return of Mr. Graham, I pray your permission to visit the U. S., unless you should suppose that my presence here; or in the Floridas, might be useful to my Country.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Secretary Graham

N O June 22. 1806.

I sincerely hope you have reached Virginia in safety, and that you may be enabled speedily to return to this Territory.

I had much difficulty with the Legislature. The rejection of their Bills occasioned dissatisfaction, and the majority in the two Houses were urged by the Intriguers to publish a manuscript, in which the Executive was denounced to the people. This measure is attributable, by some, to the influence of Mr. Daniel Clark— who has lately said in a public company, that he should arrive at the Seat of Government in September, and that there would be another Governor of this Territory in November.[1] So

[1] The election of Clark, who was the political enemy of Claiborne, greatly disturbed the Governor.

it seems he calculates that in one month after his arrival, he will be enabled to manage the Executive of the United States.

I can assure you Sir, that every thing is tranquil in this quarter, and that the most perfect good Order prevails.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

Private N O June 22. 1806.

I am honored with the rect. of your interesting Letter of the 27. of April.

The arrangement of our Militia which was recommended to Congress, was well calculated for the defence of our Country, and it is regretted by me that the system was not approved.

The proposition which was submitted to Congress, with a view to the immediate settlement of a part of this Territory by American Citizens on the Condition that they should, in the event of war serve in our armies, was received here with great approbation. It's adoption would have attended with many happy consequences. – besides adding to the safety of the Territory, it would have increased the American population; have facilitated the introduction of the American Government, Laws and Language; increased the value of the adjoining vacant Land – and therefore have liberally compensated the United States for the Donations bestowed on settlers. Indeed I view this proposition as one founded on such good policy, that I hope sincerely it may (be) renewed at the next Session of Congress – and I anxiously anticipate its adoption.

The force destined for this Territory, with the aid of the Militia, is for the present sufficient for its protection.

I have given my opinion to the Secretary at War, as to the best mode of disposing of the Troops ordered on this Station, and I shall take care to have my Militia so arranged as to give immediate aid, if the occasion should require their services.

On the Mobile, and towards Pensacola, the Spanish Agents continue to manifest an unfriendly disposition. From the side of Nacogdoches, every thing was quiet at the date of my last dispatches. My own impression is, that they are withdrawing their Forces from the western Provinces, to the Sea Board with a fiew of repelling Miranda, and putting down a spirit of insurrection among the people.

We have here no correct information of the progress of Miranda; it is however very certain that a spirit of disaffection exists in many of the Spanish provinces, and that of late there have been several partial insurrections. The Spanish government is very weak towards Mexico. Their regular troops are few in number, and so enfeebled by a continued inactivity for many years, that it is suspected they would make but little opposition to an active an bold Invader. I have been surprised that England has not made an atack in that Quarter. It presents to her an easy Conquest, and I should suppose one too which would prove highly injurious to her Enemies. But perhaps England countenances Miranda, and will give him effectual aid.

The exploring party under the direction of Mr. Freeman was not long since on the eve of departing from Nachetoches. I hope they meet with no interruption in ascending the Red River.

I feel much anxiety for the safety of Captain Lewis; and anticipate with pleasure his happy return to his Country and to his friends. If Sir you have any certain news of the progress of that enterprizing and valuable

young man, will you be good enought to communicate it to me?

Mr. Deplantier is sincerely the friend of General La Fayette, and will unquestionably be attentive to his interest. The late Act of Congress is favorable to the General. I hope now there will be no difficulty in locating the vacant land on the Canal Carondelet, Mr. Deplantier is at present absent from the City, I however will write him, and suggest the propriety of his acting without delay under the late law.

Two Gunboats have arrived from Kentucky, at this Port. They are built of strong materials, and seem well adapted for the Lakes and for the service for which they are intended.

I have heretofore apprised you of my intention to visit in the course of the Summer several Counties on the Mississippi; and if circumstances will permit, perhaps I may venture as far as Nachetoches. I shall set out on my excursion early in the ensuing month and in the course of my journey I propose to write you frequently and to give you an accurate account of the Country and of the disposition and sentiments of the people.

Mr. Riebelt of whom you speak so favorable has passed some time in New Orleans. I find him an interesting acquaintance. He unites to much information firm principles of Republicanism. He however is under strong apprehensions of having experienced some domestic calamity, and takes his passage on tomorrow in a ship for Baltimore.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Isaac Camp

N O 24. June 1806.

Having understood that you retired from Point Coupee without giving the Security required by Law, I have

deemed it proper to confer the Office of Sheriff of that County on another Citizen.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To the Mayor of Orleans

N O June 24. 1806.

On Sunday last a Comedy was performed at the Theatre which has wounded the feelings of the Ladies of the Ursuline Convent.[1] This Piece is calculated to bring their Order into disrepute, and to hold them up to the derision of the People, at least such is the impression of the ladies.

During the last year the Ladies of the Convent communicated to me their wish that the performance of this Comedy should be discouraged. I addressed a letter to the late Mayor on the subject, and I had hoped that the same cause of offence would not again occur: but in this hope I have been disappointed— and I must now request your influence and authority to prevent another representation of a Piece which gives affliction to a Community whose Sex, amiable characters an correct deportment cannot fail to interest in their favor the good and virtuous.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

N. O. June 24. 1806.

To the Lady Abbess of the Ursuline Convent

Holy Sister,

I am honored with the receipt of your letter, under date of the 24th Instant.

The Representations at the Theatre of which you complain, are to me sources of regret, and I beg you to be

[1] Claiborne had been the friend and protector of the good sisters, and they thought he could control the theatre.

assured, that all my influence will a second time be used with the Mayor of this City (to whom more properly belongs the duty of checking abuses of the Stage) to prevent a repetition of those exceptionable pieces.

I am sorry that these Representations should have given affliction to the Community over which you preside; they may have amused the thoughtless; but cannot I am sure, be approved by the reflecting part of society.

The sacred objects of your order, the amiable characters which compose it and the usefulness of their temporal cares, cannot fail to command the esteem and confidence of the good virtuous.

I pray you holy Sister, to receive the assurances of my great respect, and sincere friendship.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

N. O. June 25. 1806.

Sir,

A few days since, an inhabitant of this Territory, a Spaniard by birth, was arraigned at the Bar of the Superior Court on a charge of murder; and upon trial was acquitted. This event is only worthy of notice in consequence of a question which arose in the course of the trial and the decision made thereon. The Counsel for the *prisoner* demanded, in conformity to the principles of the Common Law, a Jury composed in part of his *countrymen.* It was conceded that the Prisoner to was an inhabitant of Louisiana at the period of the Cession to the U. S. and was still an inhabitant thereof, but in as much as he had not taken the oath of allegiance to the U. S., he was in fact an alien, and a subject of the King of Spain.

I am happy however to inform you that the demand was not acceded to by the Court; and altho' the Judges

did not give in detail their reasons for rejecting the claim of the Prisoner, yet it was understood to be the opinion of the Court, that all persons who resided here at the period of the Cession and did not withdraw from the Province with the Spanish or French authorities, could not otherwise be considered that Citizens of the U. S.

I rejoice at this decision since it has removed from my mind a cause of some inquietude. Certain American Lawyers who are settled here, have doubted whether the people could be considered as American Citizens until they had taken the oath of allegiance to the U. S., or could be convicted of Treason should they enter the Armies of a Power at war with the U. S. I have always thought this opinion erronious. It seemed to me that the Allegiance of the Inhabitants of the ceded Territory to Spain and France having ceased, *it* (the allegiance) must of necessity attach to the Power that protected them; & I never considered the administering the oath as a necessary measure. But since Lawyers of some eminence professed to entertain a contrary doctrine, I am happy to find my opinion supported by a decision of the Superior Court.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very respectfully
your obdt. Servt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To James Madison

N. O. June 26th 1806.

Sir,

I was informed on yesterday that an office for the sale of Lands in East and West Florida, was now open at Pensacola, under the direction of Mr. Moralis. It is understood, that the Titles for Land heretofore sold by

Moralis, will now be completed, and it is probable, the remaining vacant Land, will in a short time be taken up. Several Gentlemen of this City, will in a few days either go in person or send their agents to Pensacola; I give you this information, under an impression, that pending the negotiation with Spain, it may be useful to the executive to know, that if the Titles of Mr. Moralis are recognised, the U. States, should they purchase the Floridas, will probably not acquire one acre of vacant Land, which is fit for cultivation.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Very respectfully
your mo: Obt. Servt.
Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

N. O. April 4th 1806.

Sir

I have this day drawn upon you in favour of Richard Claiborne an order for 48 Dollars payable at five days sight; this sum has been paid by me, for two uniform Coats which I presented to two Chiefs of a friendly Tribe of Indians called the Hamos; they reside on the waters of the Mississippi in the County of Acadia within this Territory, and have been in the habit of receiving small presents from Governors. The account & vouchers are inclosed.

I am, Sir,
With great respect
your mo: hble. Servt.
Signed — William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

N. O. June 26th 1806.

Sir,

I have nothing new to communicate; It is understood here, that Governor Folch, and Moralis are so hostile to each other, that the recall of one of them from Pensacola is daily expected! If Moralis should be superseded, perhaps our present embarrassments on the Mobile may be removed; but of this, there can be no certainty. Moralis however, I do not expect any evidence of a friendly disposition; and I must confess, that Governor Folch has not heretofore discovered any great wish to accomodate.

We are making preparations at this City, to celebrate with some Eclat, the 4th of July, & I am happy to perceive, that many of the Ancient Louisianians are disposed, to unite on this occasion with the native Citizens of the United States.

On the 4th of April, I drew a Bill on you, for 48 dollars in favour of Richard Claiborne, payable at five days sight, of this Bill, I advised you by letter & inclosed the a/c & vouchers. The money was expended in the Indian Department. The Bill was put into the hands of a Major Fortier to collect, who informs me, from Richmond, that the bill remained unpaid; but does not state, that it had been presented. Fearful however, that my letter of advice may have miscarried, I herewith inclose a Duplicate thereof.

There is another expense in the Indian Department, which I have incurred, and on which I must solicit your opinion, before I shall settle the account. A Tribe of friendly Indians living in this Territory, had sold (some years ago (under the Spanish Government) a tract of Land to a Citizen; to this Land there was lately set up another claim, and the business was brought before the Superior Court.

The Indians thought themselves called upon to sup-

port the claim of the Citizen holding under their Title, and solicited me to assign them Council. I engaged in their behalf, the services of Mr. Lewis Kerr, an attorney at Law, who argued the cause ably, but the decision of the Court was against the Indians Title.

I was visited the other day, by Mr. Kerr, and spoken with upon the subject of his fee; I talked of fifty Dollars as a just compensation; but Mr. Kerr names one hundred as the lowest sum which was offered in this City, for the services of a Lawyer, in a Cause of any importance. We however agreed to submit the subject to the Secretary at War.

I will only add that the services of Lawyers here, as well as those of every other description of Citizens cannot be acquired, but on terms, which to the northward must have the appearance of great extravagance.

I have the honor to be &c

Signed William C. C. Claiborne.

To Albert Gallatin

N. O. 30. June 1806.

$ Cts

I have this day drawn on you for 1607:44, payable to the order of William Brown Collector of the Port of New Orleans at 5 days sight.

The above sum is now due me from the United States for monies expended on public Service as will appear from the vouchers heretofore forwarded, and those now inclosed.

You will observe that the Contingent a/c for the last is to a greater amount than for any preceding quarter: but this has arisen from the circumstance that some accts. heretofore raised were not presented for settlement until within the last month.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne.

To Thomas Jefferson

N O July 5. 1806

Private
P. U. S.

I few days since I visited the settlement of Terra-au-boeuf, so called from a Creek or Bayou on which it is situated an where formerly Buffaloe ranged. This Bayou lies to the east of the Mississippi, and is about 22 miles in length. It makes from lake Born and communicates with the Mississippi abour 15 miles below New Orleans. The Bayou is at present nearly dry, but when the river is high the back water admits the passage of large Batteaux. The Settlement of Terra au beouf was established by Genl. Galvis. The inhabitants are for the most part Spaniards from the Canary Islands, who, in emigrating to Louisiana received donations of land and other evidences of the bounty of the King of Spain. they are an uninformed, inoffensive humble people, whose primary cares are the support of their families and a rigid conformance to the principles of the Catholic religion. There is only a small quantity of tillable *land* on the Bayou. On the one side *it* is limitted by lake Born, and on the other by the Mississippi Swamps. The farms generally consist of from four acres in front and from 15 to 40 acres deep. There are however some few Citizens who claim larger tracts. The soil is fertile and well timbered. Near the Lake I observed a considerable quantity of the Live Oak. There are three of four Planters on the Terra au beouf who cultivate the Cane and others Cotton; but the settlers for the most part turn their attention to the culture of Corn, Rice, Potatoes, vegitables, and raising of Poultry. For the Surplus of their provisions New Orleans presents an immediate and lucrative Market, and the City is indebted to them for a considerable portion of its daily supplies.

I must confess that I was much gratified during my visit at Terra au Beouf. The people seemed to me to be equally removed from riches as from want. Their own labor gave them the means of support, and with their situations they seemed to be content. I fear however that the lands will ultimately be engrossed by a few individuals. They are well fitted to the culture of Sugar, and altho' the Cane cannot fail to enrich those who grow it, I must be permitted to regret the degree of debility which *it* will entail on a considerable portion of this Territory. The population will never be considerable. The sugar plantations will always be extensive, and it not probable that they will ever be cultivated by freemen. But when I take into view the vast country watered by the Mississippi, and the facility with which thousands of Citizens could hasten to our relief, I entertain no apprehension from attacks from without; but to guard against insurrection on the part of that unfortunate race of men in which we are likely to abound, I am induced to think that it will always be expedient to maintain in this vicinity, a small regular Force.

The settlement of Terra au Beouf I suppose could furnish about 120 men fit for militia service; but of this I am not certain. The efforts I have heretofore made to organize the militia in that quarter have not proved successful. I have not been enabled to find suitable characters for Captains & Subalterns. As I before observed these settlers are an uninformed people. Few can either read or write; But I nevertheless esteem them a useful portion of our society; they are industrious and honest; obedient to the laws, & content with their situation.

During the late temporary Government in Louisiana, and within a few days after my arrival, I appointed a Mr. Mendez Civil Commandant of Terra au Beouf. He is I believe a very honest man, but was not a favorite with the people and they were greatly dissatisfied with his ap-

pointment; so much so that some were disposed, as was stated to me, to resist his authority. I was advised to embrace this occasion to evince the energy of the American government, and I was strongly pressed to despatch a military force to the district and to cause to be arrested and conveyed to Prison such persons as had expressed dissatisfaction at the appointment of Mr. Mendez. I however did not desire to commence my Administration with any high toned measure, nor did I think the occasion justified it. My desire was to enlist in favor of the new order of things the affections of the People, and not to excite their fears. The counsel was therefore rejected, and I pursued a course more congenial with my own disposition and the genius of the government which I served. Three or four of the most influential inhabitants were directed to attend at the Government House, and of whom I made enquiry as to the causes of complain against Mr. Mendez? I found them not very important, but were nevertheless such as induced me to accept Mr. Mendez's resignation which had been tendered. A Mr. Garrick was shortly named the Commandant, and the district continued tranquil. During my late visit I passed a night with Mr. Garrick, who is now a Justice of the Peace and Major of Militia. He supports a good character and has the confidence of the People. He professes to be an admirer of the American Government, but is of opinion that for the present it is not well calculated for the Territory. Mr. Garrick does not approve the American Judiciary. The mode of attaining justice is too circuitous and expensive. He spoke of Lawyers as sources of inquietude to this society and expressed a fervent wish that he might only know them by name.

I shall leave this City in the course of the day, and propose visiting the several Counties on the Mississippi. During my journey I shall occasionally write you, and

will endeavour to make my letters acceptable by giving you some account of the Country and the manners and sentiments of the Peopé.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

PS. From the point of junction of Terra Beouf with the lake to the Sea is not more than 12 or 13 leagues distant, and I learn that Vessels of from 40 to 8– tons burthen might approach near the Terra Beouf. I fear in time this lake may be resorted to by Smuglers, and as well with a view to their discouragement as to guard against the approach of an enemy to New Orleans by the way of Lake Born perhaps it may be advisable to establish a small military post on Terra Beouf. The tillable land is alike fertile on each side of the Bayou; perhaps in some places it may extend further than 40 acres in bredth.

W. C. C. Claiborne.

To Henry Dearborn

N O July 5. 1806.

On yesterday the Citizens of this place exhibited a degree of patriotism which afforded me pleasure.

All the Stores in the City were closed by order of the City Council, and the inhabitants generally suspended their usual avocation. High Mass was performed in the forenoon at the churches, and a Tedeum sung. At night a new Tragedy called Washington or the Liberty of the new World was performed and much applauded by a numerous audience consisting for the most part of ancient Louisianians. The Tragedy being finished the company repaired to the public ball room and the evening was closed with dancing. As was usual federal salutes were fired from the Forts, and the Battalion of

Orleans volunteers paraded on the occasion. From these particulars you will observe that the American feeling is not in exile from this Territory. There are indeed some ancient prejudices which are difficult to remove, and there are some local parties encouraged by a few designing men, whose native language is English, which in some measure stifle the germ of patriotism; but I persuade myself that the time is not distant when the Louisianins generally will be zealous members of our republic.

The Officers of the 3d Regiment have been exercised by the Adjutant General. Those of the 4th Regiment will be exercised on this day. the officers attached to the Militia generally will receive instructions as to the manner of exercising by Regiments, Battalions and Companies.

I shall leave the City on this day on a visit to the Country and shall in the course of my journy attend at as many of the assemblages of the Officers for exercise as may be in my power.

I shall take care that the public service shall receive no injury by my absence from the City. All official dispatches will be conveyed to me without loss of time, and if my presence should become necessary at New Orleans, I can speedily repair thither.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Albert Gallatin

N O July 6. 1806.

I have the honor to transmit you vouchers and a/cs.
$
for 1256.31, being the monies which have been expended for the improvements to the Government House and other public buildings.

The rents of the public Buildings have enabled me to

make these improvements, and to leave in my hands a small balance which is lodged in the Branch Bank.

I have not been enabled to make a settlement with one Citizen to whom I rented a Public building, which prevents me from forwarding to you at this time a general statement of the public building a/c; but I shall do so on my return to the City.

The Buildings which I have rented out, and the terms on which they are rented, I have heretofore acquainted you with, and also the Secretary of State.

I am now on a visit to the several Counties on the Mississippi as well with a view to avoid a residence in the City during the Sickly Season as to attend in person to the better organization and disciplining of the Militia.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

N O July 6. 1806

I was present yesterday at the Exercise of the Officers of the 4. Regiment by the Adjt. General. There were 23 officers present, all in complete uniform, and each manifested an ardent desire to become acquainted with his duty. I find that my presence excites a laudable spirit of emulation, and will I am persuaded have a good effect.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Instructions to R. Claiborne, Secretary to the Governor

N O July 7. 1806.

1. From 9 until 2 the office is to be kept open. Your punctual attendance is expected, and every person having business is to be treated with politeness and speedily dispatched:

2. No person is to receive a Certificate of Citizenship unless his claim to the same shall be proven by his own oath, and that of two land holders or Householders of the Territory:
3. No Passports are to be granted except to Native Citizens of the United States, or persons who have obtained Certificates of Citizenship:
4. You are furnished with blank passports, and the Notaries are furnished with a necessary number of blank Certificates; but to give validity to either the seal of the Territory must be affixed, and you will take care that in no case it be improperly applied:
5. You will in no case for the seal receive a greater sum than is allowed by law.
6. You will receive all my official and private dispatches, all of which you will forward to me: my official dispatches you will open, and if you should think them of sufficient importance to be forwarded to me by Express, you will apprize the Mayor of the City of the contents, and if he thinks with you as to their importance, you will request Mr. Cenas to engage an Express:
7. Mr. Vassant will from time to time visit the City to whom you will deliver to be conveyed to me all my letters and papers; and those dispatches from me which he may be the Bearer of, you will cause to be put into the Post Office:
8. You will write me from time to time, and keep me advised of every occurrence of any moment:
9. In the event of your sickness, the keys of the Office are, during such sickness to be committed to Doctor Flood:
10. You will take care that no person handle or peruse any paper in the Office but yourself, and the contents of any communications to me or from me, are to be

kept secret unless in such case where you are directed to advise with the Mayor.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Mayor of Orleans

N O July 8. 1806.

It was stated to me on yesterday that the Holders of Slaves complained generally of the negligence of the Police. It was said that the Taverns or Cabarets in the City were numerous, that Negroes and free people of colour were licensed as Tavern Keepers, and that their houses were resorted to by Slaves who passed most of their nights in dancing and drinking to their own injury and the loss of service to their Masters.

Near to the residence of Mr. William Brown the Collector I was informed there were several disorderly houses, and it was added that the evil was daily increasing. Fully persuaded of your vigilance and zeal in the discharge of your duties, I have given you the information I received, and if it be correct, I have no doubt you will apply the proper corrective.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

26 miles from N. O.

July 9. 1806.

On yesterday the officers attached to the 5. Regiment of Militia were exercised in my presence: 18 officers were present, all in complete uniform, and each evinced a sincere desire to perfect himself in knowledge of military Tactics. The exercise being over, we sat down to a sumptious dinner, and in the Toasts which were given a degree

of patriotism was evinced which no good American could witness without emotion of pleasure.

The Officers stated to me that the general want of arms was a great impediment to the complete organization of the militia. They expressed a wish that the United States would loan to each Regiment two or 300 stand of muskets, and added that at present a necessary supply of arms could not be obtained in this Territory. To these observations I replied, that the sentiments and wishes of the Officers should be communicated to the Secretary at War.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To R. Claiborne

German Coast County
9. July 1806

It is important to the interest of the Territory that the acts passed at the last Session of the Legislature should be published as soon as possible; and I desire that you do from time to time urge Mr. Anderson the Printer to exercise a due degree of diligence.

Six hundred copies of the Laws are to be deliverd at my office and you will cause them to be distributed without delay in manner pointed out in the "Act to establish a mode of promulgation both of the laws which may be enacted by Congress for the Territory of Orleans, and of those which may be enacted by the Legislature of this Territory."

I am aware that you will experience some difficulty in transmitting the Laws to the distant Counties for want of conveyances; but if private opportunities should not speedily offer, they must be forwarded by express and the expense attendant thereon must be paid out of the Contingent fund. You will observe that unless the Laws are speedily transmitted to the Judges and Sheriffs of

the several counties, that the Census of the people will not be taken, nor can the Tax on land for the present year be collected.

I have inclosed you the form of two letters which you will copy and address to each County Judge and sheriff when you forward to them the Laws.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To R. Claiborne

German Coast County 10. July 1806.

Will you enquire of such Citizens as you may suppose can advise you correctly, whether there is at present a due degree of care observed by the City Police with respect to the assembling and the conduct of negro Slaves. If you should learn that the police is not sufficiently vigilant you will communicate the information which you may receive to the Mayor of New Orleans, and to the Judge of the County, and urge each of them to cause to be inforced the "Act prescribing the rules and conduct to be observed with respect to Negroes and other Slaves of this Territory.

I must again solicit your attention to the speedy publication and distribution of the Laws. Mr. Anderson *must* complete the work with dispatch.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To R. Claiborne

Private.

German Coast County
July 10. 1806.

Permit me to remind you of the propriety of taking every necessary precaution to ensure the safety of the Records and Papers in my Office. I pray you not to

leave the door of my Office open for one minute unless when you should be present, or to permit any one but yourself to handle the papers. I have in New Orleans many Enemies, and among them there is one who would in my opinion overleap every principle of delicacy and even of *honesty* to injure me. The man to whom I allude, once got possession of a paper from a private House, and afterwards published it with a view to my injury. The man to whom I allude once acquired possession (in what manner I know not) of the private Letters of a respectable Gentleman of Natchez whom he disliked, and supposing that the contents of those letters would injure the writer, he treacherously forwarded them to one of his Enemies. This man is now in New Orleans; and though he may never visit you himself, he has his Spies and his Courtiers in every quarter. His great wealth enables him to acquire the services of bad men, and such, many such are now obedient to his Orders. I enjoin it upon you to act with the most scrupulous integrity and the utmost caution. Your political connection with me will occasion your conduct to be observed; and whatever exception can be taken of it, will be blazoned forth with all the exageration which envy and Calumny can give.

I have signed my name to many Blank Passports, and Notarial Certificates. Be it your care that these Blanks are not improperly used. My honor is in some degree committed to you. I rely on your fidelity and prudence. Be assured that attempts will be made to betray you into error. One Passport improperly obtained may occasion me much trouble. On no occasion receive a Cent more than the Law entitles you to for the Public Seal. The man who once wished to be imprisoned in order that I might give an evidence (as he pretended) of Energy, would, in the plenitude of his liberality, reward a Private Secretary either in person or by an agent with many dollars for one impression of the Seal. But in all his acts

there is design. He would cheerfully have been imprisoned to have supported against me, a charge of Tyranny; and would lose 1000 dollars in order to be furnished with an evidence that money had been illegally received in my office. Let not any expression in this letter wound your feelings. My confidence in your integrity is unshaken: but I owe it to my own reputation to give you this precautionary advice; and I request that you consider this letter as official and to be governed by it accordingly.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

Private— 24 Miles from N. O. July 10. 1806

Dear Sir,

On the 5th Instant I left the City & passed up on the East side of the Mississippi. It is only six months, since I last visited this vicinity, and I discover evidences (within that period) of considerable improvement. Several new Buildings are completed; others repaired, and the Fields extended, and laid out with more regularity and taste.

My first day's travel was only 8 miles to the house of Mr. J. B. Macarty a member of the Legislative Council, & Colonel of the fourth Regiment of Militia; I found the officers of his Regiment assembled for the purpose of Receiving the Instructions of the Adjutant General; and was much pleased with their (apparent) ardent desire, to acquire a Knowledge of military tacticks. Colo. Macarty possesses a large sugar Estate and of course a considerable income, he entertains with much hospitality and is particularly attentive to strangers.

Between Colo: Macarty's farm & the City, resides Mr. Bore; he is a neat Planter, and has evinced much Taste in the arrangement of his Gardens & Yards. The

next seat to Mr. Bore, is that of his son in Law, Mr. Fouche; a Gentleman who was lately recommended by the Representatives of this Territory, as a member of the Council; Mr. Fauche has erected a commodious dwelling House, and the avenues which lead to it, are ornamented with handsome Rows of Trees; he does not cultivate the Cane, but depends principally upon his Garden, and the daily market of New Orleans for his Income, and I learn it is not inconsiderable.

I continued with Colonel Macarty two Days, and on the 8th set out for a Mr. Adelar Fortier's, where the officers of the 5th Regiment were to assemble for exercise. Colo: Macarty was so obliging as to accompany me during the Journey, our conversation turned principally upon agriculture; the Colonel esteemed the Cane the only sure and lucrative crop, which could be cultivated in the Lower part of this Territory. Formerly Indigo was the staple commodity; but for several years in succession, the Crops were considerably diminished, and on many Farms entirely destroyed. The Planters changed their seed, and procured a species from Campeachy; For the first year this quality of Indigo prospered; but was ultimately attacked by the Common Enemy. This destroyer was a worm, called by the Inhabitants *vers luisants;* a species of the Chenille; they commenced their ravages in the year 1790; the prospects of the Farmer were often blasted in a night; it sometimes happened that preparations would be made to reap on the Morrow, the fruits of his labour; but in the course of the night, the Crops were destroyed. Thus it was, that Indigo was finally abandoned, and the Planters resorted to a more certain Culture; some raised Corn; others Cotton; but Mr. Bore in the year ninety six, turned his attention to sugar; The Cane had previously been brought from the Havanna, and ornamented the Gardens of the Louisianians; But Mr. Bore has the Credit of being the first to introduce it in his

fields; he succeeded beyond his expectations, & found for his sugars an immediate and lucrative market; other Planters followed the Example of Mr. Bore, and the Cane will doubtless, be very soon Cultivated in every part of this Territory, where the Climate permits. The facility with which the sugar Planters amass wealth is almost incredible; the failure of Indigo for several years and the expense attendant on Sugar works as preparatory to the Culture, had occasioned the Planters to be greatly involved; but they are now generally free of Debt, and many have added considerably to their fortunes. It is not uncommon with 20 working hands to make from 10 to 14 thousand Dollars, and there are several Planters whose field negroes do not exceed forty who make more than 20,000 Dollars each year.

The sugar Plantations must of course be highly estimated; they have encreased in value one hundred 7 25 per Cent, since the Province was Ceded to the United States; and it is not probable that they have yet reached their true value.

The sugar Planters raise also a sufficiency of Corn for their own use; It is planted in the same field with the Cane, and each Crop prospers; nor do those Citizens who resiede near New Orleans, neglect their Gardens; I think Colo: Macarty told me; that his daily receipts from the market were equal to 9 Dollars.

We arrived at Mr. Fortiers about one O'clock; the officers being exercised the balance of the day was passed around the festive Board, where much harmony prevailed, and many patriotic Toasts were given. The family of the Fortier's are numerous and the males are remarkable for their honesty, industry, hospitality, and manly persons; Major Fortier to whom I lately introduced you by letter, is of this family, and his figure is not more com-

manding than that of several others, with whom I am acquainted.[1]

On yesterday, I dined with Mr. Destrehan; he is esteemed the best Sugar Planter in the Territory, and is perhaps the wealthiest; his sugars bring him near thirty thousand Dollars per Annum, and his rents in the City about six thousand dollars; but he is nevertheless an Economist; Everything around him has the air of Simplicity; his table is good, but by no means luxuriantly served; he is much attached to retirement, and the education of his Children (ten in number) and the improvement of his Estate, constitute (at present) his primary cares.

Mr. Destrehan is certainly a man of sence, but has strong prejudices, and altho they may be founded in error, it is not in the power of Man to remove them; he continues of the opinion, that Congress has not been just to the ceded Territory; but is nevertheless an admirer of the American Government.

I was somewhat surprised at the late resignation of Mr. Destrehan as a member of the Legislative Council; I had supposed, that after having laboured to obtain for the Territory a change of Government, he would not have witholden from the People his public services; but he complains of a want of health, and that his private affairs imperiously demand all his attention. I am inclined to think however, that Mr. Destrehan is influenced by other considerations; he probably foresees, that the present grade of Government will not be popular; the encrease of taxes which will of necessity attend it, will occasion the People to murmur, and perhaps he may suppose, that by retiring to private life, he may conserve his popularity, until we shall be formed into a state, and then

[1] The ancestor of Alcie Fortier, the Louisiana man of letters and historian.

he may fill an office of great dignity and more gratifying to his ambition.

I fear it will not be in my power, to make the journey which I had contemplated; the heat of Summer has already made me sick; I have at this time a slight fever; but I do not calculate on its continuance. I propose resuming my route on Tomorrow.

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne.

To Thomas Jefferson

Private 36 Miles from New Orleans
July 11th 1806.

Dear Sir,

On this day at 7 O'clock, I set out from Mr. Fortier's and arrived at Noon, at the House of Mr. Truard, the Judge of the County Court, for the County of German Coast. Judge Truard had envited to his House, the Justices of the Peace, and the other Civil officers of the County, and with whom I had the honor to dine. The day passed pleasantly away, and I was pleased to find, that the American Government and Laws began to be understood and admired by the Company. Judge Truard is a native of Paris, and has received a liberal Education; he early emigrated to Louisiana, and is married to a Creole of the Country, by whom he has had several children. I find in Mr. Truard the Character of an honest, entelligent man, and a zealous American; he, alike with his guests, professed to be admirers of the principles of our Government, but were of opinion that the American Judiciary was not adapted to the present state of the Territory;[1] they thought the Trial by Jury, was not desirable, and complained most heavily of the conduct of the Lawyers; Judge Truard, as well as his neighbours are culti-

[1] The objection of the French to the introduction of the English common law system was general among them.

vators of the Cane, and are greatly augmenting their wealth; I Saw at Judge Truard's some Peaches of an Excellenct quality, to the raising of which this Climate is happily adapted.

In the neighbourhood of Mr. Truard's two Americans have established sugar Plantations – Mr. Butler late of the Mississippi Territory, and Mr. James Brown from Kentucky; the former has a flattering prospect, and will probably make the present year fifteen thousand Dollars; the latter is only preparing for the Culture of Sugar the ensuing year; he purchased his Estate the last year, for (I believe) sixteen thousand Dollars, and at presnet, he would probably refuse forty thousand Dollars. My indisposition still continues; but I persuade myself it will not prove serious.

Signed William C. C. Claiborne.

William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Territory of Orleans.

To the Sheriff of Acadia County.

Whereas Anseme Roman was lately convicted before the honorable the County Court for the County of Acadia for an assault & Battery, and was there upon sentenced to imprisonment for 1 month, to pay a fine of 500$, and to give security to preserve the peace towards all good Citizens of this Territory for the period of 12 Calendar months next ensuing: Now therefore be it Known that I William C. C. Claiborne Governor as aforesaid by virtue of the power in me vested, and for divers good reasons me thereunto moving, I have thought proper to grant in part my pardon to the said Roman, and I hereby wholly remit the fine of 500$, to which the said Roman was sentenced: but the residue of said sentence to remain in full force and virtue.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at New Orleans this 13th day of July 1806, and 31st year of the Independence of the United States.
[L. S.] Signed W. C. C. Claiborne.

To James Madison.

66 Miles from New Orleans
July 14. 1806.

Sir,

In a former letter I advised you of my intention to visit the several Counties on the Mississippi, I am now on that Journey, and hope to accomplish it in a short time; unless indeed I should be arrested by indisposition, which is not improbable, for an exposure to the summer's sun has already made me very unwell.

I have taken the necessary measures to prevent the public service sustaining injury by my absence; and when ever my presence in the City may be necessary, I shall repair thither with great dispatch.

I sincerely hope that on the return of Mr. Graham, in October next, it will be permitted me to visit the United States. Among other objects of my visit to Washington, I am desirous to settle my public accounts.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

66 Miles from New Orleans
July 14. 1806.

Sir,

On yesterday the officers of the 6th Regt. were exercised by the adjutant General. It was not in my power to be present, being confined by a slight indisposition, to my chamber. I however feel much better at present, and propose prosecuting my journey on tomorrw.

I received on las Evening a letter from Havanna by the way of New Orleans, under date of the 30th ultimo. My correspondent states— "The Marquis of Casa Calvo and his son arrived here from Pensacola on Monday last, and will sail from hence on the morrow evening, in the ship Sally, Capn. Hills, bound for Boston. He will I presume proceed direct to Madrid without visiting the City of Washington."

I hope our differences with Spain may be adjusted previous to the arrival of the Marquis at Madrid. I fear he is not friendly disposed to the United States; He left this Country under an impression that the possession of the West bank of the Mississippi was essential to the interest of the King his master; and I am inclined to think he did not entertain a just opinion either as to the disposition or power of the U. S. to preserve and defend the ceded Territory.

A few days previous to my departure from the City I visited the settlement of Terre au Boeuf, so called from a Bayou on which it is situated. This Bayou is to the East of the Mississippi; It is 22 miles in length – makes from Lake Born, and communicated with the Mississippi about 15 miles below the City. I learn that Vessels from 40 to 80 Tons burthen, may approach near the Terre au Boeuf, by way of the Lake. I think therefore that it is adviseable to establish a small military Post on this Bayou. The settlers on Terre au Boeuf are numerous. They are for the most part Spaniards from the Canary Islands.

There is also a Bayou to the East of the Mississippi, about 9 leagues above the City of New Orleans, on which the french and afterwards the Spaniards established a Garrison. This Bayou makes from Lake Ponchartrain, and through which the Chacktaw Indians formerly approached the settlement, and did mischief. If a rupture

with Spain should be deemed inevitable, it may be expedient to secure that pass; but at this time it is perhaps unnecessary.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Thomas Jefferson

Private

At Mr. Barranger's
66 miles from New Orleans
15th July 1806

Dear Sir,

I am now in the Country of Acadia, and my indisposition having assumed a more serious aspect, I shall avail myself of the hospitality of Mr. Barranger, and continue with him, untill my fever (which is still slight) shall have left me.

Mr. Barranger's farm is in a high state of cultivation, and his Improvements greatly surpass those of any other Citizen; his house is commodious, built of Brick, and in conformity (I am told) to the Italian mode; the Gardens are extensive, and handsomely arranged; Mr. Barranger has heretofore cultivated Cotton; but his Crops having for the last few years been considerably diminished by the ravages of the Chenille, he proposes for the future to raise the Cane, & is now busily engaged in erecting the necessary Sugar works. When I descended the River, in December 1803, I was delighted with the Farm and Improvements of Mr. Barranger, and made enquiry, as to the sum, for which they could be obtained. I was told, that they were for sale, and twenty five thousand dollars were the consideration; It so happened however that for want of funds it was not in my power to become the purchaser, and Mr. Barranger refused the other day an offer * * * * (Manuscript torn)
(Manuscript torn) * * * * most agreeable sea

breezes thro'out the Day. The Country of Attackapas and of Oppelousas which adjoins it, is the most beautiful I ever beheld; the Praaries are extensive; replenished with the richest verdure, and affording Food for numerous Stocks of Cattle.

Thro' the Praarees, ran many small streams of water, on each side of which (for about 10 Acres) there are Groves of wood, which in many places afford excellent Timber. The River Teche (which communicates with the sea) passes thro' the two Counties; it may be navigated to a considerable distance by vessells of Fifty Tons burthen, & I learn that at its mouth, the depth is from six to 7&½ feet. On the Tache, the Citizens are for the most part settled, and I have observed many well improved farms. The Inhabitants generally cultivate Cotton, Corn, & Rice; several are preparing for the culture of the Sugar Cane, to which the climate and Soil are said to be favorable, but I do not learn, that the Planters are in general, enclined to abandon the raising of Cotton.

I am not now more than 10 Leagues distant from the sea, and there is not a Tree to interrupt the Sea Breezes; Attackapas is a low, flat Country, and the frequent Rains (at this season of the year) render it disagreeable to the Traveller; but the Climate is certainly salubrious, & I shall be much disappointed, if my health is not soon restored. The warmth of Party Spirit in this Country, seems to be subsiding; but harmony in the Society is not yet restored. Here also, the Judicial System of the Territory is a source of Complaint, and the Lawyers are much feared by the People. It is probable, there will be a considerable emigration from Attackapas and Oppelousas to the Spanish Settlement on the Trinity; several families have already emigrated, and many are preparing to follow.

The Season here, has been uncommonly wet, and I have noticed with regret, that the Crops are unpromis-

ing; the Citizens however will find a sure resource in their stocks of cattle, which cannot fail to prosper in this beautiful grazing Country; they feed in the Spring and summer in the Prairies, and retire in winter, to the marshes near the Sea; they demand but little care from man; Nature supplies them abundantly with food, and they require no other salt, than what they meet near the Sea Board.

I shall proceed in a few days to Oppelousas, from whence, I shall again do myself the honor to write you.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To John Watkins

Attackapas 29th July 1806.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the ——— Instant, and thank you, for this evidence of your kind attention and remembrance.

The recovery of your health affords me pleasure, & I sincerely hope it will continue uninterrupted thro'out the season. I have abundant reason to be satisfied with your attention to your public Duties; and however some men who are constitutionally enclined to find fault, may complain, I pray you to believe, that your fidelity in office, will always be acknowledged by the good and the discerning.

Previous to the receipt of your Letter, I had heard of the fire in the City, and I also learned with regret, that the assistance of the Citizens, was not rendered in that regular manner, which is calculated to make it effectual; the circumstance must have attracted your attention, and the occasion will doubtless be embraced by the City Council to establish some general and fixed Rules of police. In the City of Philadelphia, the Regulations of the police

concerning fires are so well understood, that every Citizen knows his Duty, and a collection of thousands of Inhabitants, are in a moment brought to act, with the same celerity and order, as a well constructed machine; hence it is, that fires there are speedily subdued, and it seldoms happens that that destructive element produces much mischief.

I sincerely hope that your City will continue free from the ravages of Fever; I think the Inhabitants owe much to the police for their present safety; the Improvements to the Streets, have contributed much to cleanliness and of course to health; I have always thought, that if Trees were introduced into your City, an additional security would be given to the health of the Inhabitants; It is to be regreted, that the Streets are in General so Narrow, as not to admit of the planting of Trees; but they can with facility be introduced on the Levee, and in the Square fronting the Principal; and I am persuaded, that the good effects would soon be perceived.

The Trees which I should most admire would be the wild Locust, and the Common Poplar; they are of quick growth, of a durable nature, and afford a fine shade; The Lombardy Poplar has been introduced into some of the Northern Cities; but I have lately learned, that they have been destroyed; It is said, that these Trees nourish a worm whose sting is poisonous; that some Citizens of Philadelphia have lost their lives by the Sting of this Insect, and that in consequence, the Trees have been destroyed by a Decree of the City Council. I cannot vouch for the truth of this statement; I heard it since my departure from New Orleans, and I communicate it to you, as a circumstance worthy of notice.

I believe the fall of the year, is the Season for planting Trees, and I should indeed be well pleased, if on my return, I should find that you had made the necessary arrangements to furnish the busy Merchant, with shade,

while occupied on the Leavee, and the amiable fair, with pleasant walk in the Public Square, when they should be disposed for exercise, or enclined to honor man, with a view of those charms, which the most humble; ought to be permitted to admire.

You will have heard of my Indisposition; the Fever was for some days incessant; it left me much enfeebled; but I nevertheless prosecuted my Journey, and I find myself much benefited by exercise and a Change of Climate; I shall set out for Natchez in a few Days, by the way of Oppelousas; If imperious circumstances should not otherwise direct, I shall probably visit again the County of Attackapas, previous to my return to New Orleans.

Will you present my affectionate Remembrance to Mrs. Watkins, and accept the Best wishes of

. &c.

Signed William C. C. Claiborne

To J. W. Gurley, Atty. Gen'l

J. W. Gurley Attackapas 29th July 1806.

Sir,

The conduct of Judge Belly of the County of Ibberville has been (in my opinion) highly exceptionable, and his continuance in office is not approved by the Citizens.

You have already been apprised of my doubts as to the power of removal by the Executive, and you know the grounds on which these doubts exist! will you examine the question with care, and give me your opinion upon the subject? I am certainly enclined to revoke Mr. Belly's commission; but before I act, I wish to be assured of my authority!

Under a Law passed at the last session of the Legislature, a Judge may be indicted for misconduct in office. The complaints which were made to me, against Judge

Belly were transmitted to you; It is your province to examine them, and to do that which your duty suggests and your judgement approves. I presume not to direct you, to prosecute any individual; but I cannot but express a wish that every person, who should abuse a public Trust, should be arraigned, and punished according to Law.

I cannot too earnestly press you for an opinion, as to the power of the executive to remove a County Judge, and by the Law constituting your office, you will observe, that it is made your duty to give an opinion, upon any Law question, which shall be submitted to you by the executive. The first Law of the Government of the Territory declared, that Inferior Judges and Magistrates should continue in office for 4 years, and it is now a question, whether this provision, is repealed by any subsequent act of Congress relative to this Territory.

I know that Judge Prevost was once of opinion, (at least he so expressed himself) that the Governor could not remove a County Judge; his opinion is not with me a very high authority; but it makes me the more desirous, to reflect maturely previous to my acting.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn

County of Attackapas
July 29th 1806.

Sir,

I have been greatly delayed on my Journey, by an attack of fever, and altho' it has now left me, I nevertheless am so enfeebled that I fear it will not be in my power, to visit (as I had intended) the several Counties of the Teritory. The Adjutant General however, will attend to the discipline of the officers, and no means in my power shall be omitted to render the Militia an efficient force.

I learn from Nachetoches, that the Spaniard are again assembling a respectable force at Nacogdoches, and threaten to recross the Sabine; It is also stated to me, that a Detachment of Spanish Troops, had marched for the purpose of intercepting the exploring party (up the Red River) under Mr. Freeman, but that from the friendly disposition of the Caddo Indians towards the United States, No fears were entertained for the safety of our Countrymen.[1]

I shall set out in a few days for Oppelousas, & from whence I shall proceed to the County of Concordia — opposite to Natchez; where (unless my presence in New Orleans should be necessary) I shall probably remain a short time.

I have the honor to be Sir, &c.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To R. Claiborne

Attackapas July 30th 1806.

Sir,

By the return of Mr. Vassant, I inclose you several official, & private Letters, which you will be pleased to forward according to their directions.

The official Letters are left open, and previous to sealing them, you will examine them with the original Copies, which are also sent open, in order, that they may be intered in regular succession on my official Journal.

From what I can learn, I have abundant reason to be satisfied with your attention to the Duties of your office, and I pray you to be assured of my encreased confidence in your fidelity.

I shall in a few days set out for Natchez. via Oppel-

[1] This expedition excited the suspicions of the Spaniards who regarded it as conflicting with their interests.

ouses, and if on the arrival of Mr. Vassant at New Orleans, there should be dispatches for me of importance, you may forward them to me by Mr. Vassant; but otherwise, you will keep this Gentleman employed in my office, untill you hear further from me.

I have only to add, that on application to Mr. Cenas, he will procure for you such Express Riders, as may be deemed necessary, and to the Same Gentleman you may apply, for such advances of money on public account, as may be found necessary.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Judges of Counties

N. O. August 4. 1806.

Circular,

On the ——— Ultimo I had the honor of transmitting to you, through the Sheriff of your County, your portion of the Laws of the last Session of the Legislature.

I have it in charge from the Governor to solicit your attention to the Act entitled "An Act for laying a Tax on real Estates in the Territory of Orleans," and to express his entire confidence that the duty required of you by the Said Act will be promptly and faithfully discharged.

Signed Richard Claiborne.

To Sheriffs

Circular. N. O. August 4. 1806.

Sir,

On the —— Ultimo, I had the honor to transmit to your care the proportion of the Laws of the last Session of the Legislature for your County.

I have it in charge from the Governor to request your Speediest attention to the Act entitled "An Act for taking the Census of all the Inhabitants of the Territory of Orleans".

Signed Richard Claiborne.

To Judges

Circular, New Orleans August 18. 1806.

Herewith you will receive — copies of the Land Law of Congress for the Territory of Orleans, which you will be pleased to distribute among the Citizens of your County with all possible dispatch, it being of the first consequence to their claims to be made acquainted with it.

Signed R. Claiborne.

P. S. On the —— Ultimo I forwarded to the Sheriff of your County, your portion of the Laws of the Territory which I hope arrive safe.

To Col. Freeman

Natchez August 17th 1806.

Sir,

A considerable Spanish Force, has crossed the Sabine, and was on the 8th Inst. near the Bayou Pierre, where they contemplated establishing a Garrison.

In consequence of this information, I shall return to the frontier Counties; and propose seting out for Rapide in the morning.

General Wilkinson has not arrived.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

Concordia August 17th 1806.

Doctor John Watikins,

Sir,

Having heard that a considerable Spanish force, was in the vicinity of Nachitoches, I propose seting out on tomorrow for the Counties of Rapide & Nachitoches, for the purpose of putting the Militia, in the best possible State. Unless some imperious circumstances should prevent you may expect to see me in New Orleans on or before the 15th of next month. In the mean time, you will keep me advised of every occurrence of Importance, and I also advise and request that you maintain a regular correspondence with Cowles Meade[1] Esqr. the acting Governor of the Mississippi Territory, who will if the occasion may require, detach to New Orleans, such number of his Militia, as may be in his power.

If you make me any Communications by Express, you will be pleased to direct your Messenger to proceed by the route of Attackapas and Opelousas.

I shall endeavour to be in New Orleans by the 15th of September, and sooner if possible.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To R. Claiborne

Natchez 17th August 1806.

Sir,

I received on this morning by Express, Dispatches from Nachitoches. A Considerable Spanish Force has crossed the Sabine, for the purpose of establishing a Garrison, on the same ground, from which a Spanish Detachment was not long since driven by Captain Turner.

In consequence of this information, I shall return to

[1] Claiborne at once applied to Mead for help against the Spaniards.

the Frontier Counties, and propose seting out for Rapide in the morning.

I trust that the safety of New Orleans will not be menaced during my absence; but if any event, should render the services of the Militia necessary, Colo: Bellchasse has (in my absence) authority to give the necessary orders.

You may expect to see me in New Orleans in the course of next month. The dispatches from Nachitoches are of a nature, which make it my duty to proceed to that place.

You will keep me advised of every occurrence of an Interesting nature, & if it be necessary to communicate with me by Express, the Messenger must pass thro' Attackapas, and Opelousas, on which route, he will be certain to meet me or to hear where I am.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The undersigned having learned, that a considerable Spanish Force had crossed the Sabine, for the avowed purpose of establishing a garrison at or near Bayou Pierre, within a short distance of Nachitoches, are of Opinion.

1st. That unless the orders issued some time since by the Secretary of war to the officer commanding at Nachitoches, not to permit an armed body of men to cross the Sabine, have been rescinded, it is advisable to dislodge the said armed force, and to cause them to retire to the West Bank of the Sabine.

2d. That if the Regular Troops at Nachitoches, should not be deemed sufficient to compel the Spaniards to retire, that a part of the Militia of the Territory of Orleans, should be called into service and ordered immediately to Nachitoches.

3d. That to encourage the Militia of the Territory of Orleans, to repair with promptitude to the Scene of Action, Governor Claiborne's presence may be neces-

sary, and it is therefore deemed advisable that he repair without delay to the Counties of Rapide and Nachitoches.

4th. To provide for the better safety of the two Territories, and particularly for the security of New Orleans, it is deemed proper, that the militia of the Mississippi Territory should be placed on the best possible footing; that with this view, orders are to be issued for Battalion and Company musters and in the event, that any Spanish Force should threaten an attack upon the City of New Orleans, and certain information thereof received, that the acting Governor of the Mississippi Territory, will immediately order to the said City such portion of his Militia as the safety of his own Territory may permit.

5th. That if the Spaniards should actually commence hostilities in the vicinity of Nachitoches, and assistance from the Mississippi Territory should be essential, that the acting Governor will detach to that post one hundred mounted Infantry.

The undersigned regret the absence of General Wilkinson at this crisis, but will on his arrival, in obedience to the instructions of the President of the United States — detach for duty such portion of the Militia of their respective Territories as may deemed advisable and will place the same under the orders of the said General.

With a view of receiving accurate information of the Sate of things in New Orleans and its vicinity, it is proper that during the absence of Governor Claiborne from that City, the acting Governor of the Mississippi Territory, should maintain a correspondence with Doctor Watkins Mayor of said City, in whose discretion and patriotism the undersigned have much confidence.

The undersigned will communicate to each other occurrences of Importance.

Done at Natchez on the evening of the 17th of August, in the year 1806.

Signed (Wm. C. C. Claiborne.
(Cowles Meade.

To Henry Dearborn

Concordia (opposite Natchez) Augt. 18th. 1806.

Sir,

On yesterday I received by Express, a letter from Nachitoches, of which the enclosure No. 1, is a Copy. You will perceive, Sir, that the Spaniards have crossed the Sabine in force, and are advancing towards Bayou Pierre.

Under an impression, that my presence would animate the Militia, and induce them to rally (if the occasion should require) around the Standard of their Country, I shall set out on this day for Nachitoches via the County of Rapide, and expect to reach the Post on the 22d Instant.

At the date of my last letters, everything was tranquil at New Orleans; I apprehend no danger from Pensacola or Mobile; I shall however make but a short stay at Nachitoches, and will return to the City with all convenient dispatch.

On the arrival of General Wilkinson, I will conform Strictly with the Instructions contained in your letter of the 8th of May last.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

From Edw. D. Turner

Nachitoches August 8th 1806.

Sir,

I have thought it necessary to advise you by special Express, that yesterday Major Porter returned from the Spanish Camp with an answer to a letter he bore from Colo: Cushing, demanding of Governor Herrara what was intended by his crossing the Sabine with a Military force &c, &c, &c, the reply of the Governor, to execute the Orders of the Capn. General, which were to receive that Territory to the King, who had been in possession of it for time immemorial. That the transaction of forcing off a Detachment of his Majesty's Troops was considered a violence observing he should not permit any usurpation, and warning the Colo: not to attempt any infringement. Major Porter fell in with the Camp about forty five miles from here, on the Bayou Pierre Road, and soon after he left them, they broke up, and bent there march this way, with the evident appearance of a determination to occupy their old position, they were yesterday in the middle of the day, within 30 miles, and expected tonight to be within twelve (Dr. Sibley information) it is said they have received a reinforcement besides the detachment who went to thwart the explorers – that a large body of regular have passed the Trinity on their way to join them, and that the Explorers are on their way back.

Our Militia have not been organized, and there is no authority for calling them out should necessity require. These circumstances, I hope will induce your Excellency to pay us a visit, when you will be cordially (received) by all well wishes to our Country, and by none more sincerely than your humble Sert.

Signed Edwd. D. Turner.

His Excellency Govr. Herrara, or Officer Commanding the Spanish Army at or Near the Settlement of Bayou Pierre

Nachitoches August 26th 1806.

Sir,

On my arrival at this post, I learned with certainty, that a considerable Spanish Force had crossed the Sabine, and advanced within the Territory claimed by the United States. It was hoped, Sir, that pending the negociations between our respective Governments for an amicable adjustment of the Limits of Louisiana, that no additional settlement would be formed, or new Military Positions assumed be either Power, within the disputed Territory; a Policy which a conciliatory disposition would have suggested and Justice sanctioned; but since a contrary conduct has been observed on the part of certain officers of his Catholic Majesty, they alone will be answerable for the consequences which may ensue.

The above proceeding, Sir, is not the only evidence of an unfriendly disposition which certain officers of Spain have afforded. I have to complain of the Outrage lately committed by a Detachment of Spanish Troops, acting under your Instructions, towards Mr. Freeman and his party, who were ascending the Red River under the Orders of the President of the United States. Mr. Freeman and his associates were navigating waters, which pass thro' the Territory ceded by France to the United States; they were navigating a River on which the French had formerly made Settlements far beyond the place where they were arrested; a fact of notoriety, and in support of which, the testimony of several Citizens residing at and near the post of Nachitoches can be adduced. But nevertheless Mr. Freeman and his party were assailed by a Battalion of Spanish Troops, and commanded to return. A proceeding the more exceptionable, since the objects of Mr. Freeman, were merely scientific, having in

view nothing hostile to Spain; Objects which were long since communicated by me to his Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo, and which thro' him I presume must have been made know to the Governor General of the Province of Taxus.

This Detachment of Spanish Troops, whose movements I learn are directed by your Excellency, did, on their march commit another outrage, towards the United States, of which it is my duty to ask an explanation. In the Caddo Nation of Indians, the Flag of the United States was displayed, and commanded from the Chief & Warriors all the respectful veneration, to which it is entitled. But your Troops are stated to have cut down the Staff on which the Pavilion waved; and to have menaced the Peace and safety of the Caddo's, should they continue their respect for the American Government, or their friendly Intercourse with the Citizens of the U. States.

I experience the more difficulty, in accounting for this transaction, since it cannot be unknown to your Excellency that while Louisiana appartained to France, that the Caddo Indians were under the protection of the French Government, and that a French Garrison was actually established in one of their villages: hence it follows Sir, that the cession of Louisiana to the United States, with the same extent which it had when France possessed it, is sufficient authority for the display of the American Flag in the Caddo Village, and that the disrespect which that Flag has recently experienced, subjects your Excellency to a serious responsibility.

I am unwilling to render this Communication unnecessarily lengthy, but I must complain of another outrage which has been committed under the Eyes of your Excellency. Three Citizens of the United States of the names of Shaw, Irvin and Browster were seized by Spanish soldiers within 12 miles of Nachitoches, and have been sent

Prisoners to Nacogdoches. I cannot suppose, that his proceeding is unknown to your Excellency, and I should be wanting in duty, did I not avail myself of the present occasion, to demand information as to the cause of their arrest, and detention.

There is still another subject on which I must address your Excellency. It is reported to me, that several slaves the property of Citizens of the United States have lately escaped from the service of their Masters, and sought and found and Asylum at Nacogdoches. I have seen the Correspondence between your Excellency and Judge Turner upon this subject, and I learn your determination to await the orders of the Governor General of the Province of Taxus; I will forbear therefore for the present, to press their immediate delivery to the order of their Masters, but I must urge Your Excellency to discourage for the future, the escape of Slaves from this to your Territory. & I request that such as may repair, to the bound's of your Command may be forthwith returned. Your Excellency will readily perceive the cause of my solicitude on this subject; if fugitive Slaves are to receive the protection of the Spanish authorities, the property of the Citizens of this Territory is indeed insecure, and a good understanding between our two Governments ought not and cannot be preserved. During the last year, I had a Correspondence with his Excellency the Marquis of Casa Calvo (who was then at New Orleans) relative to some negroes who had escaped to Nacogdoches, and in consequence of the Interference of the Marquis, I am led to believe that they were restored. I was since officially informed by the Marquis, that his Conduct on that occasion was approved by his Catholic Majesty and I consequently concluded that the Mischief was at an end.

It cannot, I presume be unknown to the officers of his Catholic Majesty, that Ministers from the U. States have

repaired to Spain for the avowed purpose of amicably adjusting the existing differences;— I should greatly regret therefore if any occurrences in this quarter should prevent that amicable Arrangement, which the interest of each Nation would advise. But if the officers of Spain should persist in their acts of agression, your Excellency will readily anticipate the consequences; and if the Sword be drawn, let those be responsable, whose unfriendly Conduct has rendered it indispensable.

Colo: Henry Hopkins, the Adjutant General of the Militia of this Territory, will have the honor to deliver to your Excellency this communication, and to await your answer.

I tender to your Excellency the assurances of my great respect and high Consideration.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Henry Dearborn

Nachitoches Augt. 28th 1806.

Sir,

I left Concordia on the 18th, and arrived at this place on the morning of the 24th Instant.

Colonel Cushing has, I learn, transmitted you a copy of his Correspondence with the officer commanding the Spanish Detachment, and acquainted you of the means he has taken to strengthen the force of the United States at this Post; It is therefore unnecessary for me to say any thing on those points.

Under an impression, that the orders heretofore issued to the officer commanding at Nachitoches *not to permit an armed force to cross the Sabine,* would have induced Colonel Cushing to march against the Intruders now in this Vicinity, I esteemed it my duty to repair to

this County, in order to animate by my presence the Militia, and if the occasion should require, to call the whole, or a part thereof into service; but it seems, that from the Instructions of General Wilkinson to Colonel Cushing, that he (the Colonel) does not think himself authorised (for the present) to act under the orders given to Major Porter.

Previous to my departure from Opelousas, I had heard of the approach of the Spanish Troops, and of their intention to cross the Sabine; in consequence of which I determined to visit Fort Adams, in order to advise with General Wilkinson and the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, as to the means of defence, and particularly to learn from the General, whether he would require the assistance of any and what portion of my militia; disappointed in meeting the General at Fort Adams, I repaired to Natchez, and there proposed to await his arrival; but the information from Nachitoches was of such a nature, as to enduce me to come hither, without delay.

I have found the Americans, who are settled in the frontier Counties devoted to their Country, and solicitous to be called into service; they have all seen the Message of the President, which announced to Congress the Instructions to the officer commanding at Nachitoches, and would of course cooperate the more promptly with the Army of the United States:— I am sorry however to add, that the same degree of patriotism does not exist among the French part of our society; many of the ancient Louisianians are still attached to the Spanish Government, and others are so fully impressed with an opinion that the United States are unable to resist "the mighty power of Spain", that in the event of War, they would probably be disposed to take a neutral Stand, as the safest course.

I should be happy to learn, that our difficulties with

Spain were adjusted; but if the issue of the negociation is yet doubtful, permit me to suggest for consideration, the expediency of calling into service four Companies of Militia Cavalry, & Stationing the same on this frontier; these Companies might be drawn from this and the Mississippi Territory; but in that case the United States would have to furnish the swords and Pistols, for the Militia Cavalry in this quarter have not been enabled to furnish themselves with these necessary arms. The Counties of Attakapas, Opelousas, Rapide and Nachitoches may all (at this time) be depredated upon with impunity, by an active Enemy; these Counties are for the most part a prairie Country; the Spanish forces are composed principally of Cavalry and might at their will make predatory excursions. The United States Army in this quarter, can only give protection to the positions which they occupy; Our Infantry would, doubtless, repel attacks, but unsupported by Cavalry, they could never obtain a complete Victory.

The Spanish Troops have made a retrograde movement; they had advanced their main Body to within 17 miles of Nachitoches, and their patroles as far as the Bayou Funda to which it is Contended the province of Texas extends; this Bayou is about seven Miles from Nachitoches; but within these few days past, they have fallen back to the settlement of Bayou Pierre, about fifty five or sixty miles distant from Nachitoches; their numbers are conjectured to be one thousand, the greater part Cavalry, and reinforcements are daily expected;— They are amply supplied with Beef Cattle, but it is said, a scarcity of bread is experienced.

If the Spanish Army should at any time advance within the District over which the Government of this Territory has exercised Jurisdiction, I shall exteem it my duty to repel them. But it rests with the military officer commanding at Nachitoches, to determine, from

his orders, how far it may be proper in him, to force them from their present position and when to commence his operations; all I can say is, that I will furnish him with such portion of my Militia, as our present population will permit.

The enclosures No. 1, 2, and 3, are copies of letters from Mr. Freeman, Doctor Sibley, and Judge Turner; in consequence of which I have addressed a letter to the officer commanding the Spanish Troops, of which No. 4 is a copy, and will forward you his answer, as soon as it is received.

Previous to my departure from Natchez I consulted with Mr. Meade the acting Governor, as to the means of immediate defence, in the event that a Spanish Force should attack the settlements of the Territory of Orleans, or menace the safety of the City of New Orleans; and if the occasion should require, I am persuaded that we should receive the most prompt assistance from the Mississippi Territory.

I believe every thing is tranquil in New Orleans and that the public Interest sustains no injury by my absence; I maintain a Correspondence with Doctor John Watkins the Mayor of that City, and if any event of importance should occur, I shall be informed thereof by express; In the mean time, I esteem it advisable to remain in the vicinity, and if the duties of my office will permit, to await the arrival of General Wilkinson, when I shall have nothing further to do in this quarter, than to comply with your instructions of the 8th of May.

The Spaniards have been intriguing with the Indians and seem solicitous to excite them to War against the United States. Some Tribes are much inclined to the Spanish Interest, but I learn, that the General wish is to remain neutral.

I am acquainted by Doctor Sibley of the means he

has taken (at this Crisis) to conciliate the good disposition of the Indians, and to defeat the Spanish machinations; I approve of those means, and I have no doubt but that the object, will in a great measure be effected.

I have issued the necessary orders, to call into service (whenever the occasion may demand) a respectable Detachment of Militia, and have made the following apportionments among the several Counties, nearest this Post; from Concordia, One Captain, One Lieutenant, one Ensign, two Sergeants, two Corporals and forty Privates; from Opelousas, Two Captains, two Lieutenants, two Ensigns, Six Sergeants, Six Corporals and Eighty Privates; from Rapide two Captains, two Lieutenants, two Ensigns, Six Sergeants, six Corporals and one hundred Privates, and from the County of Auachita. One Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign, two Sergeants, two Corporals, and forty Privates. Battalion musters have been ordered in the several Counties above named, and I have expressed a wish, that the force required may be obtained by Voluntary Inlistments; but if this should not be the case, I have directed a Draft. The Detachment are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment warning.

I am this moment assured by Colo: Cushing, that if the Spanish Army, should advance one foot within the acknowledged limits of this Territory, he would instantly march against them. It is due to Colo: Cushing to remark, that the troops at this Garrison are in excellent order and the strictest discipline is observed.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Cowles Meade

Nachitoches Augt. 28th 1806.

Cowles Meade
Sir,

I inclose for your perusal a Copy of a letter, which I have addressed to the Secretary at War; that communication together with the papers to which it refers, will acquaint you fully of the State of things in this quarter.

Colo: Cushing does not think himself authorised (at this time) to act under the orders given to Major Porter; the instructions of General Wilkinson are supposed by the Colonel to countermand (in part) the former Orders.

The Settlement of Bayou Pierre, where the Spanish army is now posted, has never been subject to my Jurisdiction; It was once demanded of the Commissioner of Spain the Marquis of Casa Calvo, as an appendage of the Post of Nachitoches; but was refused; with these facts the Government are acquainted.

I pray you to Maintain a Correspondence with the Mayor of New Orleans, and to advise me of every interesting occurrence.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To James Madison

Nachitoches Augt. 28th 1806.

Sir,

My official letter of this date, to the Secretary of War which I presume you will have the perusal of, will acquaint you with the cause of my visiting this post, the part I have acted since my arrival, and of the unpleasant state of things in this vicinity.

I have received under cover from your Department, Commissions for James Mather Senior and Pierre Fau-

chet as Legislative Councellors and which I shall deliver on my return to New Orleans.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

From Gov. Herrera

His Excellency Spanish Camp August 28th 1806.
Governor Claiborne.
Sir,

The troops of the King my master which I have the honor to command on this side of the River Sabine are for no other object but to preserve a good harmony between the United States and his Majesty by Keeping entire the Country which belongs to the latter.

Major Freeman was navigating on red river in the Dominion of his Majesty, which never belonged to the Province of Louisiana, now in the possession of the U. States, and therefore he was requested by the commanding officer of the Spanish troops to retire into the Country of his jurisdiction.

I think as your Excellency does that all the Country which his Catholic Majesty has ceded to France belongs to the U. S. but the Cado's nation is not upon it and on the Contrary the place which they inhabit is very far from it and belongs to Spain; I therefore gave them notice if they wished to continue to live under the dominion of the U. S. it was necessary for them to pass into their Territory and that if they would remain where they are, they should be obliged to put down the American colours; they consented to this, and were unwilling to leave their place of residence; but having delayed more than the due time in putting down the said colours, I urged them to it by force.

The three Citizens of the United States whom I kept inn my advanced posts, have been so detained because they were found there twice, and on distinct days, em-

ployed to observe our positions and motions; I spoke thrice with them, and each time they disagreed on the motive of their coming, and at last told me that they wished to settle themselves in the dominions of his Majesty and in St. Anthony de Bejar; I therefore sent them to the Governor of that province under a guard on account of the length of the way and because it was not proper that they should travel alone, when they had rendered themselves suspicious.

The detaining of the Slaves run away from Louisiana into Nacogdoches is a metter pending before the Captain General of this province who will have likewise due information of the reasons for which those of whom your Excellency speaks to me have been sent back and for the examination of the whole, I think the best account which I can give of the matter, is by sending your Excellency's letter to which I now answer and which was handed to me by Colo: Hopkins adjutant General of the Militia who shall be likewise the bearer of this.

The troops of my King from their character and circumstances will not contribute directly or indirectly to excite the emigration of the negro Slaves.

And for my part, I do assure your Excellency that they will not commit, and hostilities which may trouble the negociations which are now pursued by the Ambassador of the U. S. at the Court of the king my master, but in case I should be provoked to do so, I will endeavor to preserve the honor of his Majesty's troops and to fulfill the duties which are incumbent on my character and that of the officers under my command.

I seize this opportunity for presenting to your Excellency my respects and consideration.

Signed Simon de Herrera.

To Gov. Herrera

Nachitoches Augt. 31st 1806.

Sir,

By the return of Colonel Hopkins I am honored with your Excellency's reply to my communication of the 27th Instant.

I continue of opinion, that the advance of Spanish Troops within a Territory claimed by the United States, is evidence of an unfriendly disposition, nor can I perceive any thing in your Excellency's letter, which can justify or extenuate the offenxive conduct towards Mr. Freeman and his associates, or the Indignity offered in the Caddo Nation, to the American Flag.

You have not denied, Sir, that the French when in possession of Louisiana, had established a Garrison on the red River, far beyong the place where Mr. Freeman and his associates were arrested on their voyage, or that the Caddo Indians were formerly considered as under the protection of the French Government. The silence of your Excellency on these points, proceeds probably from a knowledge on your part of the correctness of my Statements. I shall however, touch no further on these transactions in my correspondence with your Excellency; But will hasten to lay the same before the President of the United States who will know what measures to direct when wrongs are offered to the American Nation.

I cannot, however, refrain from expressing my displeasure, at the arrest and detention, under your Excellency's orders, of the three Citizens of the United States, Shaw, Irvin and Brewster; they are charged with no offence which would warrant Imprisonment and transportation to St. Antoine. A state of actual war between our two nations, could not have justified your conduct towards those unoffending Citizens. I can venture to assert, that the suspicions of your Excellency as to the ob-

jects of Shaw, Irvin and Brewster are unfounded; they certainly could have no particular inducements to notice the positions or movements of your Troops; the fact, I believe is, that these men were desirous of gratifying their curiosity, and wished your Excellency's passport to visit St. Antoine: Under this impression, and from the circumstance that they were within the Territory claimed by the United States, I deem it my duty to demand their release and speedy restoration to their Country. It cannot be supposed that the distance to St. Antoine or the personal convenience of these Citizens occasioned the Escort which attended them; they appear on the contrary to have been treated by your Excellency as State Prisoners, and as such, I have information of their having passed through Nocogdoches under a strong Guard.

Your Excellency will recollect that the subjects of his Catholic Majesty are daily in the habit of visiting the post of Nachitoches, and cannot but observe the positions and movements of the American troops in this quarter; they, however, are permitted to pass without molestation. A friendly and innocent intercourse between the Citizens of the one, and the subjects of the other power, has not as yet been interdicted by this Government. I am persuaded, therefore, that your Excellency will see that the arrest of Shaw, Irvin & Brewster was premature, and that their detention is highly improper; I have no personal knowledge of these men; they are American Citizens, and of course under the protection of the Government of the United States; In the name of that Government, therefore, I do now demand their release, and that they be restored to their Country as soon as possible.

Pending the negociation between our respective Governments, I could wish that hostilities should not commence in this quarter, but if provoked, by the unjust aggressions of the forces of his Catholic Majesty, the troops

of the United States will endeavor to maintain their own and their Country's honor.

Lieutenant Duforest of the American Army, is charged with the delivery of this letter to your Excellency, and to bear me such answer as you may think proper to return.

I renew to your Excellency the assurances of my respectful consideration.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

To Gov. Herrera

Nachitoches Sept. 2d 1806.

Governor Claiborne offers to Governor Herrara, his best wishes for the Speedy recovery of his health, and sincerely desires, that Doctor Hayward, may be enabled to contribute to his relief.

Governor Claiborne will take much pleasure, in rendering to Governor Herrara, such friendly Civilities as may be in his power.

To Henry Dearborn

Nachitoches Sepr. 4th 1806.

Sir,

My letter of the 27th ultimo, acquainted you of the crossing of the Sabine by a considerable armed force; of several outrages which they had committed, and also, inclosed a copy of a communication which I had addressed to Governor Harrara, or the officer commanding a Detachment of Spanish troops at or near the settlement of Bayou Pierre. I now have the honor to transmit you a Copy of Governor Herrara's answer No. 1, and also of another Communication which I have made to that officer No. 2; But to this, it is probable an answer will not

be Speedily returned, owing to to the Indisposition of Governor Herrara, who is represented, to have been confined to his bed for several Days past, by a severe attack of billious fever.

The Spanish Army continues encamped at Bayou Pierre, and was four days ago, states to be 12 hundred strong. Governor Cordero from St. Antoine in his way to the main Army, had arrived at Nocogdoches with three hundred regular Troops, and report said, that two Regiments of Regular Troops, were expected at the mouth of the Trinity from vera Cruix; but to this report, I do not give credit.

The Troops at the Bayou Pierre, continue amply Supplied with Beef Cattle; and Flour, Salt, &c, is brought from the interior Provinces (packed on mules) at a great expence; It is said however, that the pasture grounds are failing, and that the Horses are in a most wretched State.

I believe, I may venture to inform you, that these Military movements have not been directed by the Court of Spain; but are measures which the vice Roy and Council of Mexico, have thought proper to adopt. I have heard from a source entitled to credit, that in consequence of the removal beyond the Sabine not long since (under the orders of the President) of a small Detachment of Spanish Troops, the Vice Roy and Council of Mexico resolved, "(without awaiting the orders of the king) to take the necessary measures to defend the Province of Taxus, and to preserve inviolate the Dominions of his Catholic Majesty". In consequence of this resolution, Troops have been raised, and a considerable force ordered to take post, east of the Sabine.

The Instructions of General Wilkinson to Colonel Cushing are such, as to determine the Colonel, not to act on the offensive, until further orders; in the mean time, he is making arrangements to take the field, and has or-

dered to this Post, such Troops as can well be spared from Fort Adams. For myself I have esteemed it a duty, to put my Militia in the best possible State, and to hold in readiness to march at a moment's warning, a respectable Detachment; Being uninformed of the Instructions which have been given to General Wilkinson, to whom (by your letter of the 8th of May) I learn, that the immediate command of the Troops in this quarter, is committed, I have felt myself in an extremely delicate situation; but when I heard of the rapid approach towards Nachitoches of so considerable a Spanish force, and knowing as I did, that the regular Troops in this quarter, did not then exceed four hundred, I should have been wanting in duty, had I not repaired to this Frontier, and made all the provisions in my power, for the protection of the Territory, which had been committed to my care.

I cannot withhold from you, the unfortunate impressions, which the advance, and the undisturbed movements of the Spanish Army on this side of the Sabine, have made upon the Ancient Louisianians; our acquiescence is attributed either to our inability to encounter the forces of his Catholic Majesty or that the Country West of the Mississippi is shortly to be receded to Spain. So General are these impressions, that the respect of the Louisianians, in this quarter for the American Government is daily declining. This is given on the information received from the Americans at Nachitoches.

I have stated the Spanish Army to be twelve hundred strong, and that a reinforcement of three hundred was expected; in point of numbers this force is respectable; but neither the officers or Privates are accustomed to war, being for the most part Militia, and I do not hesitate to give it as my opinion that with the regular Troops now here, and those ordered from Fort-Adams, together with such militia, as I could have embodied in 12 Days, they might be compelled to retire beyond the Sabine.

Lieutenant Duforest, who was the Bearer of my last letter to Governor Herrara, has this moment returned; he reoprts, that the Governor continued dangerously ill; but was informed, that Governor Cordero was momently expected, who would reply to my letter. Lieutenant Duforest adds, that he understood, that the Spanish Army consisted of Eleven Companies, of 110 each; but were generally militia Cavalry, and that for want of pasturage, most of the horses had been sent to the west Bank of the Sabine.

Having made every effort in my power to place my militia in the best possible State, and to call to the field at a moments warning a respectable Detachment; having learned from the Military Commandant Colo: Cushing, (who seems to be a correct officer) that he did not consider himself Authorised to act on the offensive, and there being no prospect of an attack on the Territory, to which my Jurisdiction has extended, I do not see that my presence here is longer necessary, and shall therefore in a few days, set out on my return to New Orleans; but propose remaining a short time in the County of Attackapas, unless my presence in the City shall become necessary.

I cannot avoid again stating to you how essential cavalry is, to the defence of this Territory, if the negociations with Spain should fail, and War ensue, the forces of his Catholic Majesty now in the Province of Taxus, may (in our present situation) greatly distress the Counties of Nachitoches, Rapide, Opelousas and Attackapas; the Country West of the Mississippi, is for the most part a prarie Country, and cannot be defended by Infantry alone. From Opelousas and Attackapas, a considerable army might be supplied with Beef Cattle; but this resource might at this time be speedily destroyed, by a Detachment of Spanish Cavalry.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.